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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 193 | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15, 2012 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Now that he has resigned, do you think former AG Edward T. Buckingham will still return to the CNMI to face criminal charges filed against him?

Let your voice be heard!
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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Phone companies are losing the high-speed Internet game. In the second quarter, the landline phone industry lost broadband subscribers for the first time, as cable companies continued to pile on new household and small business customers, thanks to the higher speeds they offer in most areas.

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CAMPUS LIFE

A 19-year-old student with Down syndrome on Thursday won the right to play football and basketball his senior year, two months after the council that governs high school sports in Michigan agreed to allow some flexibility in an age-limit rule that for years had been absolute.

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LIFE & STYLE

"The Bourne Legacy" has unleashed a new box-office hero. The film, with Jeremy Renner taking over from Matt Damon in the reborn franchise, opened as the No. 1 weekend draw with $38.1 million.

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ON FORMER AG'S LAST DAY OF WORK

Buckingham, Fitial sign off on $190M power purchase deal

» Lawmakers 'surprised' by deal just weeks after buyout of another IPP contract

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

WATER WORLD IN LOWER BASE

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A truck maneuvers its way through heavily flooded streets near the Division of Procurement and Supply and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources offices in Lower Base yesterday afternoon. For years, this area has been suffering from severe flooding during heavy rains but there seems to be no government plan or solution in sight.

A day before leaving the CNMI as attorney general, Edward T. Buckingham signed off on a 25-year power purchase agreement with a private company granted "exclusive right to develop a diesel-generated electric power plant" on Saipan for a total "guaranteed price" of $190 million, documents obtained last night by *Saipan Tribune* shows.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also signed off on the 41-page agreement.

Fitial left Saipan yesterday for a three-week off-island trip. No date is indicated on the governor's signature.

The private company getting the contract is Saipan Development LLC, a private company organized in Delaware.

A representative from Saipan Development LLC has yet to sign off on the document, based on the documents obtained.

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Finance averts CHC crisis, again, by transferring $800K for payroll

» 'CHC has to work on its billing, collection so it won't be on crisis mode every 2 weeks'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the nth time, the central government—through the Department of Finance—averted another crisis at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. by transferring yesterday afternoon some $800,000 to CHC to cover its payroll due last Friday, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson and CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta said.

But with some $800,000 for payroll coming from the central government, CHC was asked, "Where does your collection go? Don't you collect any dollar at all?"

Babauta said CHC will make sure there won't be another payless payday. He said payroll that's due last Friday will be made today.

The CHC official said he hopes doc-

See FINANCE on Page 4

Hospital clinics shut down; doctors 'walk out' denied

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Out-patient clinics at the Commonwealth Health Center were ordered closed yesterday afternoon following an emergency meeting of physicians, who agreed to pool resources to cover the emergency services needed at the essential units of the public hospital.

Yesterday was the fifth day of a "payless payday" for hospital employees, majority of who are also affected by delayed housing allowance for half a year now.

Director for Medical Affairs Dr. Jeremy Richards confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the Family Care Clinic, Women's Clinic, and Children's Clinic were temporarily closed yesterday until further notice.

Though he admitted that there are some doctors who did not show up for work yesterday, the director refused to describe their action as a "walk out."

He said there are physicians who

See HOSPITAL on Page 4

Local

Buckingham moves to quash $50K bench warrant

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham filed yesterday afternoon a motion to quash the $50,000 bench warrant issued for his arrest by Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

Buckingham, through counsel Michael N. Evangelista, asked the court in the alternative to hold the bench warrant in abeyance.

Evangelista said Buckingham made prior arrangements for the court to be informed of his availability via telephone for the Aug. 6 hearing and for the court's permission to allow him to appear telephonically at the hearing.

"Despite this, the court was neither informed nor asked for permission to allow Mr. Buckingham to appear telephonically," the lawyer said.

The Superior Court's clerk of court issued yesterday a notice of hearing on Buckingham's motion for Aug. 22 at 9am.

Evangelista said retention of private counsel at Buckingham's own expense was not practicable prior to a hearing scheduled at 9am on Aug. 6.

Evangelista said Office of Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback declined to stipulate to a continuance of the Aug. 6 proceeding.

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'DPS, CPA should take investigation seriously'
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Evangelista said Buckingham did proceed expeditiously to retain private counsel at his own expense.

The lawyer said assistant attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich was requested to make a limited appearance to respond to the court's order to appear and to request permission for defendant to appear telephonically.

Evangelista said that, on Aug. 9 he requested the opposing counsel to stipulate to hold the bench warrant in abeyance, but the counsel declined the request.

Evangelista attached in Buckingham's motion a declaration by Frances T. Salas, head of the OAG's administrative services.

In her declaration, Salas said prior to the Aug. 6 hearing at 9am, she spoke with Buckingham.

Salas said Buckingham advised her that he had spoken with Birnbrich, the OAG Civil Division chief, about him (Buckingham) being available to appear telephonically.

The OAG staff said Buckingham stated it was very important for the court to know that he would be available to appear at the hearing telephonically.

Salas said after speaking with Birnbrich, she wrote a short email that confirmed that she had spoken with Birnbrich per Buckingham's request.

Salas said in reviewing her email to Birnbrich, she realized that she should have been more clear that she not only advise Birnbrich about Buckingham's availability but also about his (Buckingham) request that Birnbrich advise the court of his (Buckingham) availability to appear at the hearing by telephone.

Salas said after the Aug. 6 hearing, she was at the OAG's Criminal Division and that Buckingham was on a speaker phone.

She said those present included chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley, Birnbrich, and assistant attorneys general Reena Patel and Tiberius Mocanu.

Salas said during the conference call, Buckingham after hearing that a bench warrant was issued asked Birnbrich if the court had been advised that he was available by phone.

Salas said after Birnbrich gave an answer, Buckingham asked her if she didn't tell Birnbrich that he wanted to be sure that the court knows he was available to appear by phone.

Salas said she replied that she had conveyed this message to Birnbrich.

"I recall that Buckingham asked Civil Chief Birnbrich if he recalled being advised of this information by me (Salas). Chief Birnbrich acknowledged receipt of this information and said he forgot," Salas said.

An FBI special agent served Buckingham with the penal summons at the airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan last August 4.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

The five charges were in connection with Buckingham's alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's party at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's house in August 2010 and Buckingham's approval of a $400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract award in October 2010 to Michael Ada within days of stepping down as a Cabinet secretary.

The two charges—obstructing justice: interference with service of process, and misconduct in public office—were related to Buckingham's alleged use of police officers to escort him at the airport to avoid being served with penal summons between Aug. 3 and 4.

BREAKING BREAD CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kristo Rai Church pastor Fr. Celso Magbanua sponsored a gathering of priests and Rita and Dave Sablan made their home available for the gathering. Seated from left are Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Fr. Romil Aperocho, Msgr. Thaddy Stefano Quinit, and Rita Sablan. Standing from left are Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Fr. Celso Magbanua, Fr. Rey Rosal, Fr. Raul Salgado, and Dave Sablan. The members of the clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa gather every other Monday evening for fellowship, a time to "break bread" and deepen relationships as brother priests. Fr. Celso Magbanua is the overall coordinator and organizer of this regular gathering for the clergy.

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DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM

'Tremendous delay' in election process anticipated

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that the agency is anticipating a "tremendous delay" in the election process this year if the election board continues to be non-functioning due to lack of quorum.

Tinian election board representative Jose Kiyoshi was removed Friday from his post due to constitutional issues. This brought to five the vacant seats on the board which lacks a representative from Tinian.

Although the administration reappointed Donald Hofschneider for the Tinian post, he has to go through a confirmation process at the Senate which usually takes time.

Based on law, if the election board fails to act on the certification of candidates and legislative initiatives, they will all be deemed automatically certified 45 days before the elections or on Sept. 22.

Guerrero disclosed yesterday that among the major areas potentially affected by the election board's lack of quorum are absentee ballots and the printing of the official ballots.

The election board will begin accepting requests for absentee ballots on Aug. 23. These ballots are usually sent to absentee voters upon receipt of their request.

However, Guerrero confirmed that the election board cannot, in any way, send an absentee ballot without being certified by the board. This is in addition to the anticipated delay on the production of ballots that will indicate the names of certified candidates and initiatives.

"If we will wait for the 45 days [for the automatic certification on Sept. 22], it will have a tremendous delay in the election process," said Guerrero, pointing out the "very small time window" left for the commission before Election Day on Nov. 6.

Guerrero

Guerrero disclosed that just for the layout of the official ballot, this process usually takes five days to complete before these are ship to Nebraska for printing that usually takes seven to 10 days.

Once received from Nebraska, Guerrero said the election board has to conduct an inventory of all the printed ballots which takes about four days before they are pack and sent to absentee voters.

Based on experience in past elections, it took about 10 to 14 days before an absentee ballot is receive by requestor and another 10 to 14 days to send it back to the election board, according to the executive director.

Guerrero emphasized that unlike runoff elections, absentee ballots have no grace period of 14 days and must all be received by the election board on election day.

Why only now?

Terminated board member Jose Kiyoshi also expressed yesterday his concern on the potential delay of the election process this year.

He revealed that prior to receiving Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's letter that terminated his appointment, he had asked the board to allow him to continue serving until the end of his term on Oct. 4—just to ensure that the board has a quorum to do the certification of candidates, initiatives, and ballots.

According to Kiyoshi, he was confirmed by the Senate to the election board on March 9, 2009. He was appointed by Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz as the island's commerce department head on Feb. 17, 2010. Kiyoshi was removed from post because the law stipulates that no resident department head may be appointed to serve in any Commonwealth-wide board, commission, or authority.

"Why only now?" he said yesterday, admitting that "politics" may have something to do with his termination. Kiyoshi was appointed by the Tinian mayor who supports the independent candidates of Tinian. The governor, meantime, is the titular head of the CNMI Republican Party.

The former board member said he was even asked by election board legal counsel Teresita Sablan to immediately resign upon finding out the conflict of the appointment. But Kiyoshi said he did not resign right away because he wants the election process to roll on.

Kiyoshi believes that the election board—whatever the opinion of the attorney general—on issues like his appointment has the authority to make a "decision." He expressed disappointment that the election board lost its quorum a couple of months before the Nov. 6 elections.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT

August 8, 2012

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations to participate in an Afterschool Program Grant. The grant is open to all community-based programs offering Afterschool Programs or activities to all school aged children between the ages 6 years to 13 years old. Eligible proposals may receive up to $20,000.00. For this grant, a total of five (5) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. All funds related to this grant must be expended no later than September 30, 2013.

CCDF Afterschool Program Grant Application packets may be picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Completed Applications along with 3 copies should be placed in a sealed envelope and submitted to the same address on or before **Friday, Aug. 31, 2012 at 12:00pm.** Faxed and emailed proposals will not be reviewed.

Inquires regarding this grant opportunity should be addressed to Maribel S. D. Loste, CCDF Program Administrator and can be made in the following way:

1. In writing and forwarded to the address above
2. Thru email at ccdf.maribelloste@gmail.com

Phone inquiries will not be entertained.

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao Date: August 8, 2012
Secretary, DCCA

'DPS, CPA should take investigation seriously'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations said yesterday that the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority should take seriously the request for an internal investigation into what appeared to be an attempt to help prevent then attorney general Edward Buckingham from being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said as of yesterday, his committee has yet to receive a response or at least acknowledgement of receipt of letter from CPA and DPS.

"They should know this is very serious. They should respond and not ignore the issue because there are consequences," Cruz said.

Cruz sent a letter to acting DPS commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and CPA executive director Ed Deleon Guerrero on Friday, requesting them to initiate a "full internal investigation" into the use of armed police and ports police officers to escort Buckingham to the airport.

Buckingham was served a penal summons by an FBI agent shortly before the plane took off, in connection with criminal charges filed by the Office of the Public Auditor against him.

The Senate EAGI panel asked DPS and CPA to "determine whether all involved police officers/ports police officers committed any criminal acts and/or violated any departmental rules and regulations."

"We should not condone abuse of public resources, abuse of power," Cruz added in an interview yesterday, a day after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced that Buckingham resigned anew for personal and medical reasons.

Alert neighbors' 911 call leads to arrest of burglar

An alert neighbors' 911 call led to the arrest of a suspected burglar who broke into a house in Garapan and stole money and jewelry while the owner was sleeping.

It was one of the responding officers who woke up the victim and informed her that her house was burglarized and that the suspect was still in the premises.

The suspect identified as 19-year-old Jerry A. Ray was later arrested after trying to escape through a room's window.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $15,000 cash bail for Ray's temporary release.

Police served the arrest warrant to Ray on Monday afternoon in Susupe.

Detective Jonathan Decena stated in his report that, on July 26, 2010 at 5am, a woman was about to walk out from her apartment room when she saw a male entered through a window of their neighbor's house.

The woman woke up her husband and informed him about the burglary. When the husband also saw the suspect walking back and forth inside their neighbor's house he called 911.

Five officers arrived at the scene and searched the suspect in the area. The officers noticed a window screen of the house was cut open and observed a steel bar and a black hat next to the window.

One officer woke up the victim, instructed her to open the front door, and informed her about the situation.

As the officers searched the house, they found Ray trying to escape through a window in one of the rooms.

Ray allegedly resisted arrest. Police recovered from him the victim's three gold necklaces and a pouch containing coins.

Ray was taken to the Department of Corrections. He was later released as police conducted further investigation.

Police served him with an arrest warrant on Monday afternoon on charges of burglary and theft. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

Under the agreement, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will pay Saipan Development LLC "300 consecutive, equal monthly installments of $636,091."

Three hundred months is equivalent to 25 years. If the monthly payment is $636,091, then the yearly payment is $7.63 million. That is equivalent to $190.8 million in 25 years.

Payment of the guaranteed price "is not subject to alteration, adjustment, setoff, counterclaim, abatement or Force Majeure."

In addition to the guaranteed price, CUC shall pay Saipan Development LLC an operations and maintenance fee of 0.0191 per plant-produced kWh per month.

CUC shall also pay a production fee of .0153 cents per plant-produced kWh to cover the costs of lubricant oils consumables and spare parts.

Pursuant to the agreement, Saipan Development LLC "has agreed to build, operate and own the [power] plant to be developed on Saipan and CUC has agreed to accept electricity generated by the plant upon the terms and subject to the conditions set…"

Before leaving

Buckingham signed off on the document on Aug. 3, 2012, or two days after announcing his resignation. Aug. 3 was his last day of work, before using his 30-day annual leave.

Buckingham left Saipan early morning hours of Aug. 4, right after he was served a penal summons to appear in court in connection with criminal charges that the Office of the Public Auditor filed against him. A day later, he rescinded his original resignation.

On Aug. 13, Fitial announced that Buckingham resigned anew for personal and medical reasons.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chair of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, reiterated yesterday that despite Buckingham's resignation, the panel will continue its investigation into the former AG, the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The probe is in connection with the use of armed police and ports police officers, government vehicles, and other resources to escort Buckingham and his wife, and allegedly to protect the then AG from being served a penal summons.

'Surprising'

Lawmakers, when asked for comment last night, said they were "surprised" to learn of such a power purchase agreement.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said he was surprised when he learned about the power purchase deal yesterday, and immediately asked for a meeting with CUC officials to talk about this deal. That meeting is set for Thursday at 2:30pm.

"The PUTC Committee would like to hear from CUC what this contract is all about, and why we are hearing about it only now," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ayuyu said over $600,000 a month in payment is a big sum of money.

The Rota senator said the PUTC Committee also wants to know the local representatives for Saipan Development LLC.

Buyout

Ayuyu said it is also surprising that CUC or the CNMI government is entering into a new agreement, only weeks after CUC entered into an agreement to buy out the contract of independent power producer Pacific Marine & Industrial Corp., or PMIC, for $7.25 million. This will be paid in installments for 27 months.

PMIC used to operate Power Plant 4 station in Puerto Rico.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Public Infrastructure Committee, said last night he's not aware that the government has been negotiating with another private company to produce diesel-generated electric power plant, when he thought the government or CUC is now looking towards renewable energy.

"We are back to where we were," Dela Cruz said in a phone interview.

He said he has yet to see the power purchase agreement between CUC and Saipan Development LLC.

Dela Cruz echoed Ayuyu's statement that this agreement came shortly after a buyout deal with PMIC.

FINANCE

From Page 1

tors and staff will not walk out of their jobs, and that clinics won't have to be closed.

Larson and Babauta were among those in a closed-door meeting with acting governor Eloy S. Inos up to almost 5pm yesterday on Capital Hill.

Larson said Finance gave them the balance of the $5 million seed money for fiscal year 2012, which is $481,000.

To cover the entire $800,000 needed for payroll, Finance also had to reprogram more than $300,000.

Larson said Finance is still doing some reconciliation, so there might still be some balance for CHC.

"The longer-term solution for CHC is collections and billing. They need to work on strengthening their collection and billing process. And that's one of the topics being discussed today," Larson told reporters after meeting with Inos, CHC and Marianas Public Land Trust officials.

The Finance secretary said CHC also has to increase the frequency of their Medicaid draw downs.

The $5 million seed money was converted to Medicaid matching funds, to allow CHC to draw down more than $6 million in federal funds.

"To date, we've done about $2 million for them. So there's a remaining balance of about $4 million. We can pull down from just the seed money alone… We've been asking for their weekly draw downs from CHC and when we get those drawdown requests we can provide the funds in less than 24 hours," she added.

Larson said CHC should increase the frequency of its Medicaid drawdowns instead of waiting until there's a sizeable amount.

The Finance secretary also said had CHC provided the documents requested of it, they would have been able to draw down from the $7 million line of credit.

"What we're asking for is accountability, a business plan, financial statements, things like that… Since the law was passed, CHC has not provided the information that's needed. If CHC had provided what was asked, they would have had the money by now. They need to prove that they can pay back the loan, they also need to say where the money is going to go, because this is just not government money; this is trust money, so they need to be accountable for what they do with the money," she said.

Larson also said CHC can't keep coming back to the central government to ask for money every payroll.

"The other good news, we are going to work on the billing and the processing of Medicaid draws so that we don't have to constantly go into this crisis mode," she said.

Babauta, for his part, said there is a long-term plan for CHC to avoid this payroll crisis. He said the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is now going through the final phase of approving CHC's Certified Public Expense methodology, "for which we charge them at cost. It's not a billing process."

"We don't send individual billings to Medicaid. They would basically make upfront payment to us at cost. At cost, meaning the cost is calculated for the entire year of all the services that we provided, which include other factors other than actual services…" he said.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

took a leave of absence yesterday while there are doctors who were transferred to critical units at CHC such as the emergency room.

Richards cannot immediately say yesterday when these outpatient clinics will be reopened, citing it will depend on what will transpire in the next days because decisions are being made on a day-to-day basis. Since Friday, doctors—along with all healthcare corporation staff—failed to receive their salaries due to lack of funds.

The medical director admitted that because of the ongoing uncertainties and instability in the hospital, there's always the possibility of losing medical doctors and other providers. He's hopeful that a solution will be identified soon to avert this imminent threat in the healthcare system.

Richards admitted that CHC at present has "critically low" number of physicians. He said he don't have the updated number on top of his head.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show that CHC has 21 full-time doctors onboard including one ER physician who was asked to extend her stay for a while.

Saipan Tribune learned that the hospital's emergency unit was initially feared to be without a doctor yesterday after the night-shift physician, Dr. Gregory Kotheimer, supposedly ended duty at 8am yesterday. One ER doctor, Dr. Florence Schenker, is currently on leave, while Dr. Trenton Scheibe just agreed to extend her stay to cover for Schenker.

In a visit at the hospital yesterday, some patients interviewed by *Saipan Tribune* on condition of anonymity disclosed that they were made to wait for some hours because no doctor is available to provide treatment.

Nurses from closed clinics transferred

Nursing director Leticia Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that as a result of the shutdown of out-patient clinics, four nurses were transferred to inpatient units of the hospital such as ER.

Other nurses at the women's clinic were made to stay because the clinic has a nurse practitioner who can continue to provide for patients' needs.

Like physicians, Reyes also admitted that she had a meeting with her nursing staff yesterday to ensure that what they're getting are "factual" information.

She admitted that nurses have been demoralized about the situation but were asked to wait a little longer before they make any drastic decision. She assured that the nursing workforce at the hospital are still performing at their best, despite the challenges. The director admitted that some nurses have taken a short leave of absence.

$650K to cover one payroll

Corporation chief financial officer Alvaro Santos told *Saipan Tribune* that to fully cover the payroll for last week, the corporation needs $650,000—an amount he admitted can only be realized if funding assistance will be received from the Executive Branch and the Legislature.

As of 3pm yesterday, Santos admitted the uncertainty to meet the payroll this week. "We're doing everything we can and we're meeting with the Executive Branch and the Legislature [now]," he said.

The corporation, which was appropriated only $5 million in seed money for its personnel and operation, heavily relies on the hospital's revenue and collection. But the CFO revealed that they continue to post minimal collections, which average only $750,000 monthly. The corporation, from the beginning, was under-funded and with same revenue level, it will continue to incur deficit every month because public hospital is operating 24 hours each day, according to Santos.

He said collections for June and July averaged only $600,000.

The CFO said whatever money the corporation has in its hand now is earmarked for vendors who provide important hospital supplies.

Drawdown from $7M MPLT loan not possible

Santos admitted to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that there's no possibility that the corporation can draw down the $7 million proposed loan from Marianas Public Land Trust, or portion of it, at this time pending the satisfaction of requirements set by its board.

"That's not possible at this moment because that's still being negotiated. MPLT has to do also its due diligence process. Although it was enacted into law, there's more to it … and the governor's office, MPLT, and the corporation are participating partners," he said.

SNILD urged to rename road in honor of Manta Ray Band

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan urged the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to rename the road leading to Saipan Southern High School to Manta Ray Band Way in honor of the concert band's numerous achievements.

"You can easily imagine the reasons I make this recommendation. The Manta Ray Concert Band, over barely a decade in existence, has not only provided a pathway for Saipan Southern High School students to become musicians. The band has also shown our community what it is possible to accomplish with hard work focused on lofty goals," said Sablan, in his letter to SNILD chair Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

The road leading to Saipan Southern is currently named Eskabeche Avenue.

"What better reminder for all of us, as we enter Saipan Southern, than a street sign that reflects what can be learned on this campus and inspires us to use that learning to accomplish great things," said Sablan.

The Manta Ray Band served as one of the entertainment groups in the 2012 London Summer Olympics, where it not only made historic performances but went home with the silver medal in the Olympic music festival.

The local band performed in four different events during the summer Olympics including a performance at Westminster Abbey, Queen Elizabeth's Conference Center, at a torch ceremony in Central London, and the bonus show at the Olympic Park.

Prior to the London trip, the band competed and emerged victorious in other musical events and competitions, including the Tumon Bay Musical Festival in Guam where it bagged the gold medal awards in 2007 and 2008. The band also emerged with the runner-up award in the prestigious international music competition in New York City last year. In the past, the Manta Ray Band also performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

Members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band gather for a group photo with their musical director Will DeWitt after their remarkable performance last month at the Central Hall Westminster (Westminster Abbey) where they bagged a silver award and received a standing ovation from judges and spectators.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Red Cross upbeat about 24th Club 200

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Organizers of the upcoming 24th Annual Club 200 expressed optimism that the event will become successful once again, thanks to the community's support for the fundraising gala despite the islands' weak economy.

» 2,000 tickets to be sold this year

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, deems it possible for them to raise the same amount they did last year or even surpass it with the help of a community that's willing to come together to help those in need.

Hirsh described the people of the Commonwealth as "generous" that even with the difficult economic pressure, they are still willing to help organizations providing assistance to those who are suffering or are less fortunate.

This generosity, Hirsh said, is manifested in the successes of charitable events organized by "worthwhile" organizations in the CNMI, such as the Commonwealth Cancer Association's Marianas March Against Cancer in April and the Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night last July.

With the Red Cross being around for years, Hirsh said Red Cross has become a "very trustworthy symbol and emblem around the world."

"People value the services that Red Cross provides here, whether it's disaster preparedness, guidance and information, health and safety training, lifeguarding, all the support we're giving to military families here," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We're just happy to be part of that movement, happy that people are supporting us."

Teresa Kim-Tenorio, co-chair of the 2012 Club 200 committee, separately said that the "overwhelming" support of the people of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota despite economic hardships ensure that Red Cross is able to continue its humanitarian mission.

"The people of the CNMI believe in our mission, know that we are there during times of disaster, and trust us. It is that confidence that motivates us as volunteers of the Red Cross and so we are hopeful that we will be successful once again with our Club 200 fundraiser," she said.

The 24th Annual Club 200 is slated for Oct. 6, Saturday, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. The Japanese country music group G GAP will be performing at the event which will have the theme "Way Out West."

Hirsh said that there will be 2,000 tickets to be printed and sold this year, just like in 2011. About 1,300 tickets were sold last year "and I hope we can do that again this year," he added.

Tickets cost $100 apiece and entitle the holder to a buffet and live entertainment plus a chance to win exciting prizes, including the $15,000 grand prize.

"I know our community will come together to help people who are in need. We've done it time and time again," added Hirsh.

Club 200 tickets will be available beginning Friday. To buy tickets or for more information, call 234-3459.

ENTREPRENEURS FOR ROMNEY
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
At a recent gathering of young entrepreneurs in Nevada, entertainment businessman Sid Liufau (kneeling, center) spoke about the need for a Romney presidency to reduce government burdens on business and get the economy thriving again. Also participating was Pacific Islander businesswoman Taylor Fator.

CUC completes installation of powers poles along Egigi Drive

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that all residents along Egigi Drive in Talofofo now have electricity after the recent installation of power poles and primary lines that bring electric power to the area.

CUC power division manager Gary Camacho disclosed yesterday that for years, residents living along this area had no access to power. He said it took CUC linemen and Department of Public Works personnel a week and a half to complete the land clearing and installation of 14 power poles and 14 spans.

"We have received numerous power service applications for the Egigi area, but we could not accommodate their requests until the distribution line extensions were built," said Camacho yesterday, adding that with the assistance of the office of Rep. Sylvestre Iguel (Cov-Saipan), the project to light up the Egigi Drive started.

He said funding for the project was made possible under Saipan Local Law 17-3 which appropriated $50,089.36 for the labor, materials, equipment, and overhead expenses for the project. According to Camacho, CUC is always interested in expanding the islands' electrical distribution system to accommodate new customers, and any funding assistance to be able to do so will always be appreciated by the agency.

"We truly appreciate the assistance of DPW and Rep. Iguel. Egigi is located quite a distance away from the main road. Having access to electrical power and lighting up the area, is essential for the safety of the current and future residents of Egigi. We are happy that we were able to do that," said Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew and Department of Public Works personnel install power poles along Egigi Drive in Talafofo that will finally bring electricity to residents living along the area.

Meantime, CUC announced yesterday a three-hour power outage in Koblerville area. It advised affected residents that the power interruption is scheduled for Aug. 21, from 9am to 1pm.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines for the safety of the CUC line crew as they replace three rotted power poles that were identified during the island-wide comprehensive system assessment currently being conducted.

Areas to be affected include Kiya 2 (portion of 1st Partial) and Upper Turnkey in Koblerville namely Alaguan Street, Atmayas Street, and Ahu Street.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, motorists are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions.

Community involvement stressed in study of Chamorro

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A linguistics professor from the University of California Santa Cruz stressed the importance of involving the community in a research project about the Chamorro language.

Dr. Matthew Wagers, guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting, said yesterday that while it does not appear significant for a speaker of the language to study it, it is important "on a practical level" to do so and learn about the language's structure and complexity.

Wagers, who is on his second visit to the CNMI, is part of a research project that delves into the Chamorro language which is interconnected to the Chamorro Dictionary revision project.

Together with Manuel F. Borja and Sandra Chung, Wagers also held a presentation sponsored by the NMI Humanities Council as part of its Community Lecture Series at the American Memorial Park yesterday.

"We're trying to solicit questions and feedbacks from the community… It's really important that the community members are involved," Wagers told the Rotarians during the meeting.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dr. Matthew Wagers of the University of California Santa Cruz, right, talks briefly about his research project on the Chamorro language during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. Looking on is Rotary secretary Dick Cody.

According to Wagers, the project team meets periodically with working groups from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to study and understand the variations of different Chamorro words.

"Chamorro is a really interesting language," said Wagers, who can now read and understand Chamorro. "It has a complicated syntax in putting words together."

Asked about the origin of the Chamorro language, Wagers said it belongs to the Austronesian language which originated "probably" from Taiwan. He noted that the Chamorro language has word borrowings from other languages, including Spanish, English, and Japanese.

Wagers said that studying how the Chamorro language comprehension works will allow people to know if it is applicable to general theories of human understanding, whatever the size or the socioeconomic relation of the language is in contrast to other languages.

"They're all human languages and they all need to tell us about how to learn the language and how we use it," he added.

2 Saipan Awaodori members off to Japan for study trip

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori member Elisa Lazaro is joined by family members at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Monday evening.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori member Nyla Sablan is flanked by family members at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Monday night before her flight to Japan.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Two female members of the Saipan Awaodori team left for Japan Monday night for a study trip that would also allow them to perform alongside other Awaodori dancers for the Koenji Awaodori Festival in Tokyo.

Elisa Lazaro and Nyla Julie Sablan were accompanied by Misako Kamata, owner of Kinpachi Restaurant which sponsored the trip. Joining them on a later date are Saipan Awaodori instructors Mayumi Suzuki and Shunsuke Katagiri.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters Inc. said the two girls, who are the eldest members of the Saipan Awaodori team, will have the chance to improve their dance skills and learn more about the Japanese culture through the study trip.

Both Lazaro and Sablan will attend and participate in group practices of the Tokyo Tensuiren Group which is part of the Koenji Awaodori Organization in Japan.

The two will travel with the Tokyo Tensuiren to Fuji Susono for an Awaodori performance on Aug. 18 and to Ontakesan on Aug. 19.

The girls' culminating performance will be at the Koenji Awaodori Festival slated for Aug. 25 and 26. They are expected to fly back to Saipan on Aug. 30.

According to Siwa, it would be the first time for Sablan to perform at the Koenji Awaodori Festival, while it's the second performance for Lazaro, who was among the eight members of the Saipan Awaodori who performed at the festival in 2010.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori members Elisa Lazaro and Nyla Sablan are flanked by family members and Japanese dancers at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport before their flight to Japan Monday night. The two will train and perform with the Tokyo Tensuiren group for the Koenji Awaodori Festival on Aug. 25 and 26.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori members Elisa Lazaro and Nyla Sablan are joined by Kinpachi Restaurant owner Misako Kamata and Awaodori dance instructors Mayumi Suzuki and Shunsuke Katagiri at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Aug. 13.

Siwa noted that they were not able to send a team to the festival this year since they were not able to hold any fundraising activities that would sponsor the trip.

"There were other groups that needed to conduct fundraisers so we decided to give way to them," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Siwa said that the study trip will also provide leadership training to Lazaro and Sablan, who are both expected to become team leaders of the Saipan Awaodori.

Traffic case vs driver of moped pulled over by Mafnas dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday dismissed a traffic case against a moped operator who questioned the constitutionality of a traffic stop made by then Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas.

Camacho dismissed with prejudice the traffic case filed against Waitree Sawikan after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the charges.

The OAG said upon review of the file, the prosecution is convince that if the case were to proceed to trial that it would not be able to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

"Therefore, the prosecution respectfully moves to dismiss this case with prejudice," the OAG said.

Dismissed with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened.

The dismissal of the case makes moot Sawikan's motion to suppress evidence in the traffic case as Camacho has yet to issue a ruling on that issue.

Sawikan, through counsel chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, asked the court to exclude all evidence gathered as a result of Mafnas' alleged unlawful traffic stop.

Hardwicke said the traffic stop was made in violation of Sawikan's federal and Commonwealth constitutional right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures.

In defending Mafnas' actions, assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField then asserted that Mafnas' actions were supported by probable cause and that the officers diligently conducted a narrow investigation.

According to Hardwicke, Sawikan was driving his moped north on Beach Road near Downtown Market on Sept. 24 2011, between 2pm and 3pm when the driver of a Toyota 4Runner who was later identified as then DPS commissioner Mafnas flagged Sawikan's attention and forced him to pull over to the side of the road.

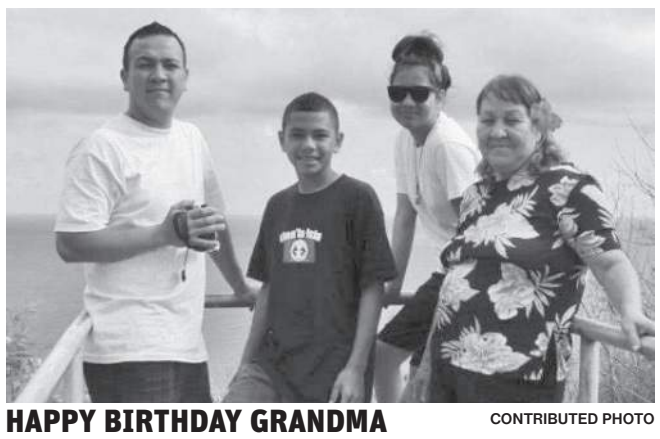
Mafnas allegedly questioned Sawikan where he worked and where he was from and told him not to leave.

Sawikan was reportedly forced to wait until a patrol officer arrived and write him a traffic ticket for not having a driver's license nor a registration card.

Hardwicke said Mafnas never identified himself to Sawikan and never informed the defendant why he was forced to pull over.

Hardwicke asserted that the U.S. and NMI Constitutions prohibit the detention of a person without reasonable suspicion, as well as the arrest of a person without probable cause.

Camacho heard the motion last July and then placed the matter under advisement.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY GRANDMA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Greetings to my grandma Lola Tomokane, right, who will celebrate her birthday on Aug. 16. As the years fly by and I get older, I cherish you more and more! You are someone very dear to me, someone I adore. Happy birthday and may all your wishes come true! I love and miss you so much! Love, Esah Mariana Tomokane of Bamberg, Germany!

2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp

PHOTOS BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Young girls are all smiles as they perform a traditional dance during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony held last Friday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

Garapan Elementary School sixth grader Asher Bansil, left, and William S. Reyes Elementary School fifth grader John Mercader, right, check the arts and crafts displayed during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

A parent checks a lei made by a student during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

Arts and crafts that were made by participants were showcased during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

Friends Jong Yun Lee, right, and John Shu Yoon show off their arts and crafts during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

Elementary students perform a choral presentation during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

Two friends are seen playing with their guitars during the during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

A group of young boys perform a choral presentation during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

The banana print-painted T-shirts made by summer campers were displayed during the 2012 Summer Youth Empowerment Camp closing ceremony.

Yap receives 1,000 English dictionaries

U.S. residents might struggle to find the central Pacific island of Yap on a globe, but thanks to a donation from the Habele, native children on the islands of Yap will be getting a much-needed educational resource.

Habele, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, sent 1,000 English language dictionaries to Yap. It's one of four states that make up the string of islands called the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The dictionaries even include an abbreviated atlas, something local students can use to learn more about distant North American geography.

This unique donation is enough to provide every middle school student across Yap State with something previously unheard of—a dictionary of their very own.

Forty boxes of books began to arrive in the capital of Yap, Colonia earlier this month. They will be distributed to the 900 students who are enrolled in the roughly 30 public and private schools across the islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
South Carolina-based nonprofit organization Habele sent 1,000 English language dictionaries to Yap earlier this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The donation of 1,000 dictionaries is enough to provide every middle school student across Yap State with something previously unheard of—a dictionary of their very own.

The donation is particularly meaningful as Yap, like all the isolated islands in the central Pacific, struggles with economic and educational challenges. Among those lucky enough to enroll in the nation's two-year community college system, just one-in-five will earn a degree, according to recent data from the U.S. government. Per-capita income is a mere $2,800 per year and many families still rely on subsistence fishing and farming.

Regina Raigetal, Habele's local director, orchestrated the dictionary donation project. "This donation is exactly what the island community told us they needed. It's a huge opportunity for our under-resourced students." Raigetal notes that Habele is the only nonprofit solely focused on educational issues in Micronesia. She says her groups is committed to help raise high school completion rates, and increase student preparedness for post-secondary education.

Director Vincent Parren, of the local state department of education, is generously overseeing the distribution of the dictionaries across the islands, which span hundreds of miles of open ocean.

Parren echoed Raigetal's enthusiasm about the partnership. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank Habele and its partners for their courtesy and kindness in sending the dictionaries to the students all across Yap State," said Parren. "We really appreciate the help and gift, and are pleased to have helped usher the boxes through customs as we send them out to the far-flung schools."

South Carolina-based charity Habele has been working in Yap State since 2006. In addition to coordinating donations of text, reference and reading books, the group awards scholarships and provides support to community-based after school programs. These include traditional dugout canoe carving (through the Waa'gey organization) and Micronesia's first-ever high school robotics team exhibition, held earlier this year. The dictionaries were provided by "The Dictionary Project," another, South Carolina-based organization that works to provide students across the globe with dictionaries of their own. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Birthday greetings go out to Rane Angeline R. Ben who is turning 10 years old today, Aug. 15. Wishing you a birthday that's bright and sunny too. Filled with love and happiness in every way for you. Greetings from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Birthday greetings go out to "Maria Belibei" who is celebrating her special day today, Aug. 15, 2012. Today is your day to shine as every day should be and remember that life is great at any age so enjoy yours. Happy birthday! Greetings from your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 13th birthday to John Joseph C. Salas. Enjoy your special day. We love you! Greetings from Dad, Mom, Julia, and Janece.

UOG professor publishes book of tanka poetry and essays

Dr. Yukiko Inoue-Smith's new book, *A Shawl of Mist: Expressing the Modern Soul in an Ancient Poetic Style*, has just been published by the University Press of America (August 2012). The book shares tanka poetry, and short essays written to complement the poems. The essays provide practical thoughts based on the author's long years of personal and professional experiences in Japan, the United States, and Guam.

The book expresses the author's perspective, as follows: "All of us are students in the school called 'Life,' which has no standard type of curriculum and no graduate examination. I have never known anyone who 'graduated' from this school, simply because death is the only time we human beings can make an end of learning."

Yukiko Inoue-Smith, Ph.D., has been a member of the faculty of the School of Education at the University of Guam since 1997. Inoue-Smith has been extensively involved in work with tanka, which is Japan's oldest and most esteemed poetry genre. Inoue-Smith is a professor of educational psychology and research, and considers poetry an equally important element of her life's work. ***(PR)***

CPA preparation courses begin in September

Beginning in September, Becker Professional Education and the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration offer a series of courses to prepare individuals to take the U.S. Certified Public Accountant examination. The course schedule follows:

2012 Fall Semester (Sept. 22-Dec. 8, 2012)

BA693A-70—Auditing, Assurance and Business Environment and Concepts (AABEC), 3.0; Saturday, 8:30am-12:30pm; SBPA Bldg., 262 Camacho Graduate Classroom; Instructor: Professor Zeny Nace.

2012 Fall Intercession (Dec. 14, 2012-Jan. 12, 2013)

BA693B-70—Regulation (REG), 3.0; Tuesday, Thursday Friday, 5:30pm-7:30pm., and Saturday, 8:30am-12:30pm; SBPA Bldg., 262 Camacho Graduate Classroom; Instructor: Professor Martha Suez-Sales.

2013 Spring Semester (Jan. 19-April 6, 2013)

BA693C-70—Financial Accounting and Reporting (FAR), 3.0; Saturday, 8:30am-12:30pm, SBPA Bldg., 262 Camacho Graduate Classroom; Instructor: Dr. Filomena Cantoria

Seats are limited. To register, or for more information, contact Carlos Taitano or Russell Ocampo at UOG's Professional and International Programs office at 735-2600/1 or visit www.uog.edu/pip. ***(PR)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 15, 2000

CPA unveils $17.8 million budget for operations
The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board has approved a $17.8 million budget for the operations of the airport and seaport divisions for fiscal year 2001. However, the CPA Board is still studying the $1.68 million total budget for Capital Improvement Projects for both the airport and the seaport for next fiscal year. Total projected revenue from the airport is approximately $12.8 million but a big chunk of the money or 86 percent will be used to operate and maintain all the three airport facilities within the CNMI. This is a 6.68 percent increase over FY 2000 budget, which was previously reduced as a result of the cost-cutting measures implemented on personnel and administrative costs.

USDA grants $40K for home improvement
The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has been awarded a $40,000 Housing Preservation Grant by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Office. According to Marylou S. Ada, NMHC executive director, the money will allow successful applicants to carry out improvements in their homes such as construction of indoor toilet facilities, kitchen or additional bedroom. "Although the amount is quite small, we are happy that we have gotten back this program," she said. NMHC has been trying to get back the rural development program for the past two years and efforts paid off when the federal program informed the housing office that it will be given a grant.

Aug. 14, 2002

Catering company sues PSS
A catering firm that ranked fourth in the competitive bid for the Public School System's School Breakfast and Lunch Program sued the autonomous government agency Monday amid allegations that the bid evaluation process was "unfair and discriminatory." Auntie Mag's Food and Catering Services Inc., in a civil action filed before the Superior Court against PSS and Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos, asked that the agency reevaluate the bids and award the project contract to bidders in a process and manner that is "fair, equitable, unbiased and non-discriminatory." But PSS Legal Counsel Tim Connor said that Auntie Mag's, through its counsel James S. Sirok, initiated the suit without exhausting the administrative remedies.

House committee wants to see apparel makers' books
The House Ways and Means is considering issuing a subpoena on the financial records of garment manufacturers in the CNMI, even as the panel begged off from issuing its report on the proposed user's fee hike for at least another week. Committee Chair Rep. Stanley T. Torres said yesterday that he has asked House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider for an extension on the submission of his report on House Bill 13-158 as he had "stumbled onto something that requires more in-depth investigation." Although he declined to be more specific, Torres said he is now looking into the profits of apparel manufacturers and he wants to verify the figures he had obtained. "We have to look into every company. But I cannot say anything more because I'm currently doing an investigation and I don't want to jeopardize that," he said. "So, I asked the Speaker to give me another week or two before I come out with a final report."

Aug. 14, 2003

Firm prepares plan to privatize power plants
A Florida-based company has visited Saipan and prepared a proposal to privatize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. main power plant in Lower Base since last spring or months before the CUC board approved a solicitation for potential investors. Seaboard Ship Management Inc. visited Saipan from April 29 to May 8, 2003, and turned in a proposal on July 18 for two projects: to operate Power plant 1 and to put up a desalination plant. The CUC board approved the issuance of a Request for Proposal for privatization on July 3. CUC board chairman Herman P. Sablan, when asked, said there was no impropriety over Seaboard's early on-site visit or prompt submission of proposal.

Cing pushes for strict polling oversight
Fearing possible election irregularities, Tinian Senator and re-electionist David M. Cing has asked the Election Commission for "strict oversight" particularly on his precinct during the Nov. 1 polls. Cing, in an Aug. 8 letter to Election Commission chairman Miguel M. Sablan, said it was suggested that certain government employees were instructed to vote in pairs "to ensure that each knows whether the other employee is voting for the person supported by the employing government entity." He said certain individuals disclosed that they had been required to vote in booths "that are not enclosed completely and directly adjacent to other booths." Further, he narrated that in the past, he was victimized as some had used codenames or words to instruct each other how to vote. "This practice was disallowed after I instituted court proceedings," he said.

Pacific

Australians fear for 67 missing asylum seekers

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian authorities hold grave fears for 67 asylum seekers reported missing after they said they were leaving Indonesia in a rickety boat bound for Australia more than a month ago, an official said Tuesday.

The news comes as Australia's government debates a tough new bill aimed at deterring the flood of asylum seekers making the perilous sea journey.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service were alerted over the weekend that the 67 had not been heard from since they told relatives that they would embark on the 400 kilometer (250 mile) voyage to the Australian Indian Ocean territory of Christmas Island in late June or early July, Home Affairs Minister Jason Clare said.

Customs had since checked a list of names of the missing against the hundreds of asylum seekers who had reached the island aboard overcrowded fishing boats in recent weeks, he said.

"There is no evidence that those people have arrived in Australia," Clare told reporters. "So we now have very grave fears for the safety of those people."

Earlier in June, more than 90 asylum seekers are believed to have drowned when two people smuggling boats capsized in the space of a week while attempting the same journey in rough seas. Another 240 were rescued and taken to a detention center on Christmas Island.

Australia's center-left Labor Party government plans to deter future arrivals by deporting new asylum seekers who arrive by boat to the Pacific atoll of Nauru or to Australia's nearest neighbor, Papua New Guinea. They would be held in tent camps for as long as they would have spent in refugee camps if they had not paid people smugglers to take them to Australia. The government has not said how long.

The plan came a step closer to reality with conservative opposition leader Tony Abbott announcing that his coalition will support enabling legislation when it goes to a vote in Parliament on Tuesday.

His support ensures that the legislation can pass the Senate this week without the votes of the Greens party, a key government ally, which has condemned the deportation of would-be refugees as cruel.

Clare said a temporary detention camp on Nauru, established by a previous administration and scrapped in 2008 when Labor first came to power, would be opened "within weeks rather than months."

The camp at Papua New Guinea, which Labor also scrapped in 2008 because it was regarded as cruel and a waste of money, would be opened "as soon as possible," he said.

A surge in boat arrivals and the deaths of more than 600 asylum seekers at sea in the past three years has promoted a tougher government attitude.

More than 7,600 asylum seekers—many from war-torn countries including Afghanistan, Iraq and Sri Lanka—have reached Christmas Island in more than 100 boats so far this year.

Nauru President Sprent Dabwido said in a statement he is committed to working with Australia to process asylum seekers as soon as it's practicable. Australia also has to negotiate an agreement with Papua New Guinea.

Asylum seekers who were rescued from a troubled boat adrift in heavy seas off Java, are escorted by police officers upon arrival at a local marine police station in Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia, Sunday, July 29, 2012.

AP

PNG *offers Manus Islands as asylum center for Australia*

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—The Papua New Guinea government says it's prepared to offer Manus Island as a processing centre for asylum seekers if approached by Australia.

The offer follows the release on Monday of former Australian Defence Force Chief

Angus Houston's report on asylum seeker policy.

The report recommended asylum seekers be processed in PNG and Nauru as soon as practical to deter people from making the dangerous boat voyage from Indonesia.

PNG Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said asylum seeker policy was a "humanitarian issue that needs to be addressed" and that his government was committed to helping Australia address it as a regional issue.

"We are ready to facilitate and help find a solution to this tragedy, so the Manus processing centre remains available as a regional processing centre," Mr. O'Neill said in a statement.

"It should be seen as a regional issue and not just a problem for Australia."

Mr. O'Neill said he had made his position on asylum seeker policy known in the past and that it had not changed.

"It is a tragedy when we see boatloads of people seeking asylum sink," he said.

The Houston report also called for an immediate boost to the number of refugees taken under the humanitarian program to 20,000 places, and to 27,000 within five years.

Mr. Houston said there should be enhanced co-operation between Australia and Indonesia as a matter of urgency—including on joint surveillance, law enforcement and search and rescue.

He said the aim was to convince asylum seekers to use the official channels for seeking refugee status in Australia—rather than risking the boat trip.

"The panel believes that a substantially increased, and more regionally focused humanitarian program would give greater confidence asylum seekers in the region that regular migration pathways provide a better to dangerous boat voyages," Mr. Houston said.

Panel member Michael L'Estrange said the focus should not just be on the offshore processing element of the panel's plan.

He said other proposals in the plan, including extra refugee places, will deter asylum seekers from using people smugglers.

"That will actually encourage more people to say, 'I'm not going to waste my money on people smugglers, I will take the option which has now been more enhanced with more places more capacity and basically go that route,'" he said.

The chief executive officer of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne, Kon Karapanagiotidis, said he was shocked by the panel's recommendations.

"We are deeply disappointed," he said.

"I think it's a recommendation that basically just rubber stamps what (Prime Minister Julia) Gillard has been arguing for. And it just shows you the lack of integrity, and the lack of genuine process because what this panel is putting forward is not what the community and the public were making submissions on."

General secretary of PNG and Solomon Islands Catholic Bishops Conference, Father Victor Roche, told Radio Australia that when one of their bishops last year described his unhappiness at the conditions he saw in an offshore detention centre, the bishops formed a collective viewpoint on the issue.

"We are against the offshore detention centers in Papua New Guinea," Father Roche said.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Westpac Bank criticized over logging loans in Solomons

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia)—The Australian Greens Party says it is looking for support for a parliamentary motion condemning Westpac bank's loan contracts to companies accused of illegal logging in Solomon Islands. Senator Lee Rhiannon told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program while Westpac has not done anything illegal, it is associated with illegal logging practices through loan contracts. "The bank really should immediately announce its plans to end links with destructive forestry and commit to contributing to forest restoration in the Solomon Islands," she said. Senator Rhiannon said she had been negotiating with members of other parties to back the parliamentary motion. "They would be wise to put the pressure on Westpac."

Former Fiji PM Mahendra Chaudhry's court case adjourned

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—The case of former Prime Minister and Fiji Labour Party leader Mahendra Chaudhry has been adjourned to September 21 for a pretrial conference. Chaudhry who is charged with three counts of breach of Exchange Control Act appeared before Judge Justice Paul Madigan in the High Court in Suva this morning. His lawyer Rajendra Chaudhry asked the prosecutors to reconsider the three charges laid against his client. He told the Court that he has already written about this to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP's) office. Chaudhry also made a bail application variation to travel for a conference to Melbourne, Australia at the end of September DPP lawyer Jojiana Cokanisiga said they needed more time to respond.

PNG schools facing closure without govt subsidies

» $166.1 million reportedly undistributed for current school period

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (PNG Post-Courier)—Many schools throughout Papua New Guinea have closed and more are expected to close soon because the National Government has not honored its commitment to release the second batch of its free education subsidy funds.

Schools that are mostly affected are boarding schools that do not have the money to feed their students. However, lack of free education funding is also affecting most schools throughout the country, including day schools.

Senior Education department officials could not be contacted yesterday to confirm the reasons why free education subsidy funds for the second half of the 2012 academic year have not been released on time to keep the schools going.

The government has earmarked K350 million [US$166.1 million] for the second half of the year but it is not known when the money will be released.

Ula Pokana, principal of Gerehu Secondary School, in the National Capital District, raised these concerns during a Parents and Citizens Association meeting at the school two weeks ago.

Mr. Pokana told parents the school would have no alternative but to close its doors and send the 1,846 students home if they didn't receive their share of the promised funds on time.

Principals of several schools confirmed that they are also affected, especially boarding technical colleges and secondary schools. Schools in the rural areas of the New Guinea Islands and Momase region are still waiting for the second batch of the school subsidy funds.

Head of a technical school in the New Guinea Islands told the Post Courier that he had to send the students home because they have run out of money to purchase food for the students.

"We are still waiting for the National Government through the Education department to release the second batch of our share under the free education policy," the school principal said.

"We used to charge parents and students some fees, especially to pay for rations to feed the students. But we have not been charging and colleting any fees since the start of the free education policy beginning this year," he said. "But the funding is not forthcoming and we are struggling to maintain our operations. The problem is there is nothing we can do about it."

Some schools in Bougainville also reported that they have sent their students home because there is no money to buy food and to keep their generators running.

The principal of a technical school said he had no choice but to send his students home last week, advising them to wait at home until the Education office in Buka tells them that the funds have been sent by the Education department in Waigani.

"We had money when we charged parents some money on top of the school fees and that was basically to run the school and buy food for students. But we don't have any money now and there is nothing we can do until we get the funds from Port Moresby," the principal said. The Post Courier was told yesterday that several schools in the National Capital District are also facing the same problems and have approached the Education office in Port Moresby. Two weeks ago in Alotau, a group of teachers from rural high schools and a technical college attempted to see their leaders who were camping there to tell them that they were still waiting for their funds.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXII, Issue No. 193

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

Overpopulation is everyone's problem

At one point, the prevailing wisdom was that nations needed robust birthrates to protect their economic welfare, and that if only we could produce food more efficiently, feeding the Earth's burgeoning population wouldn't be a problem. Now, with 1 billion of the world's people chronically hungry and the population expected to increase by 50 percent before the end of the century, we know better. Or we ought to.

A recent five-part series by *Times* reporter Kenneth R. Weiss detailed the multipronged dilemma facing the thinkers and global leaders whose aim is to reduce famine and sickness without devastating the world's finite resources. There would have been even higher rates of starvation already had it not been for the development of modern agricultural techniques, but the world's capacity for producing yet more food is limited. The easily arable land has been taken, and it is actually shrinking because of the encroachment of cities and suburbs; water clean enough for agriculture is increasingly tapped out in some key regions. Climate change is expected to put further strains on food production.

No one has a good solution. That's why family planning assistance is one of the most important forms of humanitarian aid that the United States and other developed nations can provide.

As a matter of policy, that can be tricky. If the U.S. makes contraception available, will it be seen as pressuring developing nations not to bring more of their numbers into the world? Some nonprofits have backed away from funding birth control after antiabortion forces pushed against it, especially during theGeorge W. Bush administration. It hasn't helped that a couple of attempts at population control have led to unpardonable coercion — forced abortions in China and forced vasectomies in India.

How big one's family should be is a highly personal choice that should not be subject to any form of coercion. As it happens, though, many women would choose to have fewer children. According to the Worldwatch Institute, 1 in 5 births results from an unwanted pregnancy. If just those pregnancies were prevented, the birthrate would fall below replacement level.

What keeps women from keeping their families smaller? Most often, poverty; they can't afford contraception. As Weiss' series showed, in many places where free or low-cost birth control is made available, demand far outstrips supply. But political, religious and cultural forces also play a part. In the Philippines, Weiss wrote, pressure from the Roman Catholic Church led to the virtual elimination of birth-control services at public clinics. In some countries, women have so few rights that they are not allowed to decide how many children they will have.

Nations also tend to view population growth within their borders as a force for their own economic well-being; ever-larger numbers of younger people mean enough workers to build up businesses and help support retirees. This view is shortsighted, however; dramatic drops in birthrates have created temporary hardships in some countries but also long-term benefits once that smaller population reaches retirement. Without the necessary resources and an existing economy prepared to absorb large numbers of new workers, nations that promote high birthrates set themselves up for economic distress and political unrest.

Even if it went only to nations that want it, increased family planning aid would make an enormous difference. Yet U.S. funding for such aid has been flat-lined for two decades, and the difference has not been made up by others.

See OVERPOPULATION on next page

In the long run, Arab Spring might help Israel

By FRIDA GHITIS
McClatchy Newspapers

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald*. Readers may send her email at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

A few months ago, as I was speaking to a non-profit group about how developments in the Arab world would affect Israel, I noticed the faces in the crowd looking back at me with deep skepticism. I understood the reason.

I was arguing that there is a possibility—not a certainty—that Israel will eventually emerge safer than before as a result of the Arab revolutions, also known as the Arab Spring. I have not changed my mind.

Let me be clear: I know there are no guarantees and great risk. A period of turbulence lies ahead, and the long-term outcome is far from assured. The dangers Israel faces are many, and real. But I believe that if change in the Arab world ushers in a genuine opening to new ideas, it could bring a more stable and reliable peace between Israel and its neighbors.

There is a possibility that over time, as the people of the Arab world are allowed to speak more freely and to discuss new ideas, more will openly express what remains a most unpopular point of view: That it's not the end of the world to allow a small sliver of the Middle East to be the home of the Jewish people; that peace—real peace, not just lack of war—is OK.

Some will never accept that view. The overall conflict will not end before Israelis and Palestinians find a common solution to their difficult dispute. But there is a chance that in a democracy a segment of the Arab population will recognize that Israel and the Jews are not the cause of every problem in the region, an absurd idea that remains stunningly pervasive.

In the short run, however, the challenges will mount and Israel must be counted as one of the losers of the region's transformation. The revolution upended a situation in which Israel experienced a certain amount of stability in its always-tense neighborhood.

Egyptians, like other Arabs, tend to be viscerally hostile to Israel. But until last year's uprising, Israel could count on Egypt to stay at peace. Now Egypt has a president from the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization with a history of opposition to Israel's existence. The cold peace has been replaced by vague promises to preserve existing treaties, along with a sharp upsurge in violence, particularly on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Israel's border.

Across the region, a new democratic opening has elevated Islamist politicians. It has also given voice to a population that had been exposed to only one point of view regarding Israel. For the near term, that means that people who despised Israel have now become voters. That creates even more friction.

But over time, if dictatorships and repression are replaced with freedom, new ideas and new perspectives should slowly seep into the national consciousness, some will begin to understand the kind of life and death choices Israel has faced over the years while surrounded by enemies who wish to destroy it.

Consider the events of Aug. 5, when masked militants killed 16 Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai before bursting across the border and rushing towards an Israeli farming community. Israeli fighter jets stopped the attack, blowing up the explosives-laden armored vehicle the attackers had hijacked at the Egyptian border post.

It was a tragedy for Egypt, challenging views that have fueled the Egyptian people's antipathy towards Israel.

Egyptian, Israeli and American intelligence know the Sinai has become lawless, with small bands of al Qaida fighters sharing the territory with Bedouin smugglers and Hamas operatives.

This time, the enemy was not Israel. Hamas and Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood rushed to blame Israel and stoke conspiracy theories. But Egyptians knew the truth. That's why the soldiers' funeral in Cairo turned into an angry anti-Hamas, anti-Muslim Brotherhood protest.

Before long, Egypt's armed forces responded against the Sinai militants with a force reminiscent of what Israel has used when its people came under attack. Interesting.

The Arab revolution means Israel confronts new threats, but so do Israel's enemies, such as Iran and Syria. Most importantly, the people who controlled the media, who monopolized the message in the Arab world, will face competition.

A more realistic, less negative view of Israel might emerge, leading to a more solid peace. I understand the skepticism. But the possibility is real.

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The Ides of August

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It is the day after the closing of the London Olympics, and though it no longer produced the kind of "hostility" that used to accompany sporting competition, the U.S. women's soccer team gloat redemption outscoring Japan that denied them the 2011 World Cup title. On the other hand, a South Korean fan says: "When North Korea is playing, unless it is against South Korea, we cheer for them, even when they are against military ally, the United States, but most particularly, when they are playing Japan." Korean Peninsula fidelity follows the dictum that blood is thicker than saké.

It was ABC-TV that suggested in an uncorroborated and unconfirmed report that North Koreans send athletes who fail to perform in international competition to labor camps. Internet bloggers followed it up with blown-up accounts out of proportion of the sole accusation of a defector who alleged he was sent to labor camp after failing in an international competition.

It is the *Ides of August* and we have already written of our personal affinity to the month having been born on the first day. That does not quite coincide with Barbara Tuchman's *Guns of August* that chronicles the start of WWI on Aug. 1-4 (we are not that old but as a Social Studies' teacher, *Guns* was in our reading list), but it is significant that while WWI started this month, it determined WWII's end.

August recalls Hiroshima and Nagasaki, usually used to explain Japan's decision to surrender. What is not usually mentioned in historical accounts was the role August Storm of 1.6 million soldiers amassed by Russia against Japan that marched into Manchuria until it got to within 50 miles of the nearest Hokkaido Island.

Let's get some background.

Japan occupied Manchuria and declared the puppet government of Manchukuo. After 1921, Russia supported Mangolia's independence from a resurgent China. Two puppets, Mongolia and Manchuria, played a lot of horseplay at their shared border with one getting out of hand resulting in the defeat of Japanese forces from Hailar by Russian elite troops from Irkutzk. As hostilities in Europe progressed, Japan aligned with the Axis powers entered into a Treaty of Neutrality, leaving it free not only to remain in Manchuria and the Korean peninsula, but also unhampered to chase the Kuomintang into Nanjing, and later, to Chungking in the interior.

Joseph Stalin promised the Allies in Yalta that three months after Germany's surrender, it would open a front on the Pacific War against Japan. Russia at the time still had the treaty of neutrality, and Japan was confident it had solid hold of Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula, should it need to exit an expected protracted defense of the mother islands of the Land of the Rising Sun.

Russia opened three fronts against Japan on Aug. 9, at a time when Japan was seeking Russia's assistance to mediate an end to hostilities, confident that it can hold off any offensive assault against the Japanese islands, and access resources in Manchuria and Korea. Already, Japan reeling from the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, it was not prepared to face its old Russian foes who were still smarting from their naval defeat in the Battle of Tsushima in 1905.

The charge that Russia rushed into the Pacific front does not hold water in military history. It, nevertheless, does not detract from the impact of Little Boy and Fat Man launched against Japan from Tinian (We exchanged notes on this with historian Don Farrell after the 2010 Tinian Symposium he organized.). But clearly, Japan felt more comfortable surrendering to U.S. forces than to the marauding Cossacks from the steppes.

After tramping around Inner Mongolia and Manchuria the last two weeks, we are clear that the Russian August Storm offensive was no walk in the park, even with Japan's demoralized forces then occupying Manchuria and Korea.

Add the recent visit of SoKor President Lee Myung-Bak to the disputed island and the resulting diplomatic row of Japan's Ambassador being recalled to Tokyo is not unexpected. Tsushima, equidistant from Korea and Japan, is actively claimed by Korea and equally held by traditional Japan; it makes for lively theatre in the diplomatic and cultural fronts.

Koreans will not chopstick kimchee with the dreaded Nippongos who, in ages past, are still held as having taken liberties on their land and their population.

So in the Ides of August, we are back to old wounds and ancient aspirations, though the allure of Tsushima is more along the politics of gas than the patriotism of sovereign claims. Tsushima holds enormous supply of natural gas, not to mention the seabed deposit of crude.

Historians now clearly can trace the genesis of the two world war conflicts on access to gas and oil. The claims of Tsushima still follows the old plot, and we trust that a shooting war is not included in the agenda to resolve the conflict.

The *Guns of August*, we hope, will stay silent and still, as other flashpoints, Nansha in South China Sea, and the Falklands in the southern Atlantic, stay at bay. It is nigh time to think seriously, nay, air our thoughts, of our glocal options in the Ides of August.

Engaging 'E Pluribus Unum'

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Dizzying the times may be, raucous and heavily bombarded by gutter materials from the Obama side of the presidential race, there's still room to maintain sober commitment to promoting freedom, specifically, individual freedom. The latter is what the 2012 presidential election is all about.

Either we stick to real American tradition of "rugged individualism" or dissolve into a country of entitlements dovetailing European countries that have recently declared bankruptcy. Obama has failed to build a country that will last. But he's done superbly well ruining the foundation of freedom so we come in last. His redistributive policy is very cynical and dangerous and more the reason to send "The One" packing this November.

No sir! I'm still a firm believer in the Tocqueville vision of our country being the "land of the free" and "home of the brave!" Must recapture her greatness for the sake of the political and socio-economic freedom of posterity.

It makes revisiting, learning, and understanding the basic premise inherent in the first principles in order to "defend, preserve and conserve those institutions represented by the Founding Fathers and the U.S. Constitution." After all, freedom is the very foundation that led to the political and economic success of our country for over 236 years under the free enterprise system.

Reviewing basic document

Indeed, most folks across the country skip taking a glimpse at the essence of the law of the land—the U.S. Constitution. However, it's good healthy reading the debate and papers written about them. But I suppose the same can be said about our ignoring the terms and conditions of the Covenant Agreement that gave birth to a dysfunctional relationship with the feds.

The defiant attitude doesn't alter the fact that the agreement sets forth prerequisites that would foster synergy and a functional relationship with our national government. The adolescent use of our polished and dismissive mañana makes for good news copy but far removed from achieving progressive strides in the unified resolution of issues advantageous to the NMI. We must settle down to rebuilding bridges rather than poisoning wells.

Risking redundancy, I've sought understanding the pathology of the prevailing adolescent attitude. It seems rooted in the misperception of "sovereignty" versus "internal" self-government". It's interpreted to mean a disposition as though the NMI is in fact a "sovereign" government endowed with the authority of exclusion. No! We gave it up under Section One of the agreement. It makes the NMI a political subserviency of the federal government.

In fits of frustration, we reveal the trashy bigoted sentiment wedging rather than uniting as a people though honest differences exist. Without stating the obvious, I can understand how such alienated sentiment has evolved into futile grandstanding. Governance has nothing to do with nasty jammed fingers by those who violated federal laws!

The open defiance would have to end sooner than later. Is DC adversely affected by your choice of defiance or is it this side of the Pacific that suffers exponentially from such adolescent attitude? Think and think hard. For DC, it really doesn't matter.

As we struggle to sift through fact and fiction in what defines our relationship, key players must employ intellectual integrity in their discussion of their dissenting views and whether adolescency would get to proactively partaking in "E Pluribus Unum," meaning, "In Many, One."

Demagoguery isn't leadership but politics; provincial partisanship isn't leadership but low-level politics at its worse. The NMI needs solutions and elected officials must pony up and get to work forthwith! Governance pines for real leadership not stubborn obsolescence, the latter suffocating their livelihood consistently into the nether world of misery in abject poverty. We don't want any part of your crown achievement in failure!

Resetting our conversation

The permanency of the agreement doesn't leave much room for tired rhetoric about colonialism though there's room to reset the agenda to jointly address how the prevailing dysfunctional relationship emerged and what could be done to rebuild it.

Let's openly trump our cards in an effort to see with clarity what really went wrong in a once functional relationship. This is the time to seek real time conversation when the next president takes office in January of 2013, including preludes to reconnecting with sympathetic friends in the US Congress.

It all boils down to our ability to communicate with counterparts so we jointly extend the Olive Branch in order to begin anew. Indeed, there will always be a huge gulf between national and local issues, their magnitude and how easily our concerns may be trumped in the shuffle. That this is reality in DC makes it the more vital that we nurture synergistic working relationships with major key players. We're way off course on this score to our detriment.

Reinvent wheels now

Understandably, there are honest differences of opinions on federal versus local policies. But have we in fact done something concrete to cement the pillars and foundation of self-government under a democratic republic? Have we come to terms with the supremacy of laws?

Yes, there's political expression to revisit the agreement. But the permanency of the agreement makes this sentiment one lamed aspiration. The most that we could do is encourage Uncle Sam to re-establish the Commission on Federal Laws, a vehicle once provided to work out differences especially as it relates to serious differences on policies.

Confrontational attitude via lawsuits is fine if we're all living in DC and could march up to Capitol Hill to show our disagreement openly. But we live some 8,000 miles from the seat of the most powerful capital in the world. Too, our issues are often dwarfed by larger national concerns, i.e., the prolonged drought season in midwestern states. Exploratory discussions must begin forthwith where we extend the Olive Branch so we begin anew.

OVERPOPULATION

From Page 1

That has to change; such assistance is one of the best ways to reduce and prevent a global litany of suffering. Of almost equal value is aid for girls' education in nations where families cannot afford it; repeated studies have found that girls who receive even a minimal amount of basic schooling choose to have smaller families.

Because of the political sensitivities around birth control, abortion and family choice, too few world leaders have been willing to openly address what is clearly one of the most important factors affecting hunger, international economics, agriculture, energy and the environment. It's a topic we have minimized at our peril.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88 ° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

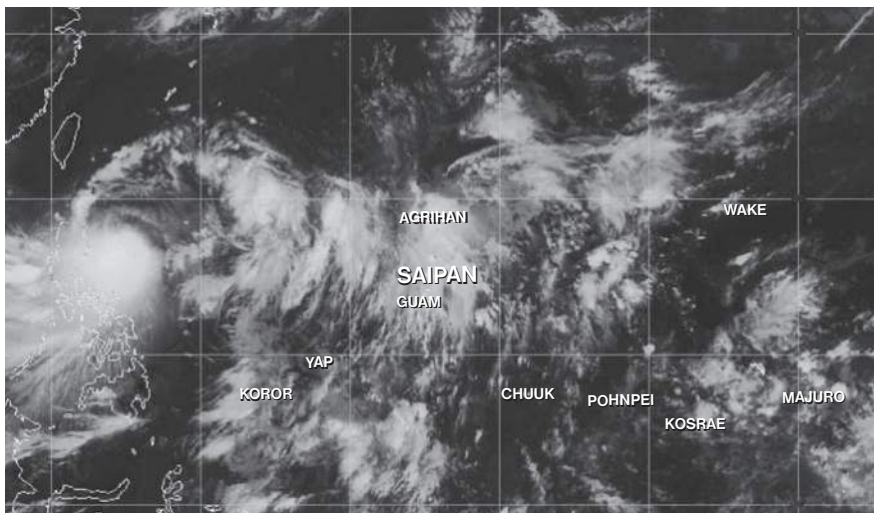
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲61	▼50
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲73	▼63
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲90	▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲82	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼69
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Paris	Cloudy	▲80	▼66
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼80
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼70
Salem	Sunny	▲91	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-northeastward from 19N130E to 23N145E. Low-level convergence south of the Trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and west of the Mariana Islands between 13N and 22N from 130E to 149E. Farther south, low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Koror within 150 miles of a line from EQ133E to 12N134E and southeast of Yap between the Equator and 9N from 137E to 146E. An upper-level Trough extending northeastward from 20N145E to beyond 25N at 153E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Minami Tori Shima between 14N and 25N from 149E to 162E. A surface Trough stretches northeastward from 6N166E to 13N171E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen between Kosrae and Majuro and near Kwajalein between 4N and 14N from 162E to 172E. A tropical disturbance centered east of Majuro near 5N177E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of a line from 1N172E to 9N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:38 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:34 AM	4:40 PM
Thursday	4:27 AM	5:25 PM
Friday	5:21 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:15 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	7:09 AM	7:35 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

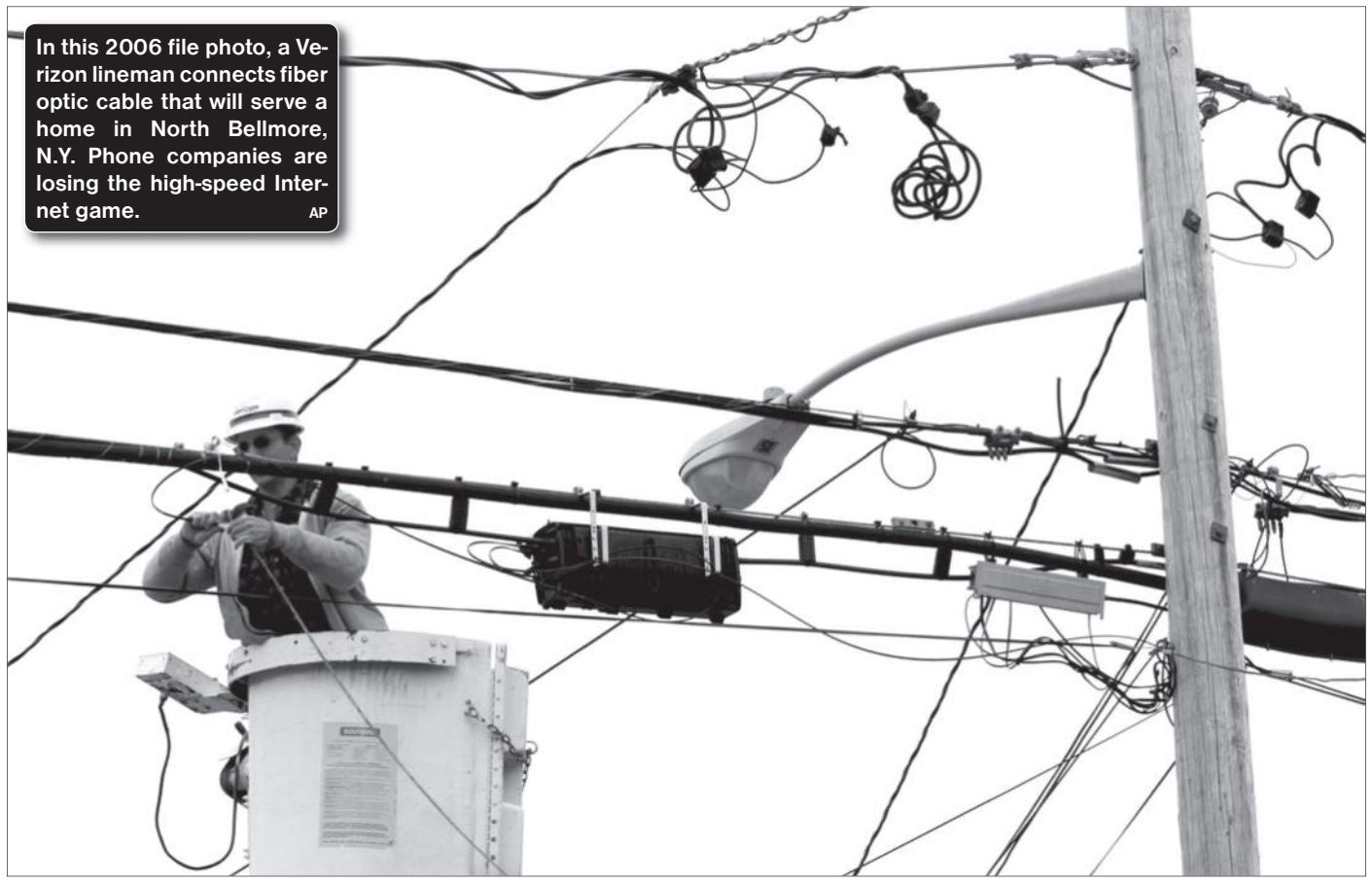
Business

Phone cos. lose broadband subscribers for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP)—Phone companies are losing the high-speed Internet game. In the second quarter, the landline phone industry lost broadband subscribers for the first time, as cable companies continued to pile on new household and small business customers, thanks to the higher speeds they offer in most areas.

The flow of subscribers from phone companies to cable providers could lead to a de facto monopoly on broadband in many areas of the U.S., say industry watchers. That could mean a lack of choice and higher prices.

Phone lines, designed to carry conversations, and often decades old, are poorly suited to carry Internet signals compared to the heavily shielded cables that carry TV signals. That means cable companies find it much easier and cheaper to provide fast Internet service compared to the digital subscriber lines, or DSL, that phone companies provide in most areas.



In this 2006 file photo, a Verizon lineman connects fiber optic cable that will serve a home in North Bellmore, N.Y. Phone companies are losing the high-speed Internet game. AP

Cable providers now offer download speeds of 100 megabits per second in many areas, about 20 times faster than DSL.

The country's largest Internet service provider is cable company Comcast Corp., with 18.7 million, followed by AT&T, with 16.4 million

Verizon Communications Inc., the country's second-largest phone company, has replaced its phone lines with optical fiber in some areas, letting it compete on speed with cable. But expanding service is expensive, so Verizon has stopped adding new areas to its FiOS build-out.

AT&T Inc., the largest phone company in the U.S., has taken a more conservative approach to optical fiber, building it out to neighborhoods but not all the way to homes. The Internet signal is still carried the last stretch, into the home, on a phone line. This build-out is less costly than Verizon's, but doesn't let AT&T compete with the fastest cable connections.

The AP's tally of reports from the eight largest phone companies in the U.S. shows they collectively lost 70,000 broadband subscribers in the April to June period. Meanwhile, the top four public cable companies reported a gain of 290,000 subscribers.

AT&T accounted for the bulk of the loss—96,000 subscribers—while other companies on average added a few thousand subscribers.

The second quarter is a traditionally weak one for all broadband providers, since college students cancel their subscriptions before heading home for the summer. The picture for phone companies is less dire

Oil boom brings scarcity of workers in small towns

WOODWARD, Okla. (AP)—The local prison is so short on guards that inmates can sometimes just walk away. A gas station barely has enough cashiers to keep up with the trucks filling the parking lot. And "help wanted" signs seem to hang from every restaurant and shop.

Yet almost no one is interested in the jobs.

This is the flip side of the nation's oil and natural gas boom. Although the expansion of drilling has breathed economic life into many small Oklahoma towns, the lucrative opportunities are also drawing people away from traditional service-sector jobs and even once-coveted state positions.

The result: Many businesses and government agencies now struggle to find enough workers. Most able-bodied people can double or triple their income in the oil patch.

"If you can walk and breathe out here, you can get a good job," said LaVern Phillips, president of the Industrial Foundation in Woodward. The county's unemployment rate hovered around 3 percent in June, 5 percentage points lower than the national average. In some near-by counties, the rate has dipped below 2 percent.

In towns like Woodward, which is home to dozens of oil and gas companies, housing is scarce, hotels are booked solid and vacant jobs are everywhere.

"Everybody is having a tough time hiring," Phillips said. "It's a good problem to have."

But it hasn't been good for the minimum-security state prison in nearby Fort Supply. Eight inmates have escaped since January, more than all of last year, and prison officials say low staffing levels are at least partially to blame.

With no fence around the perimeter and just 54 officers to watch more than 1,000 inmates around the clock, a prisoner can simply wait for the overworked guards to be distracted and make the short 30-yard walk to a nearby highway.

"I could hire 17 correctional officers today if I could get them to walk through the door," said William Monday, the prison's deputy warden.

When Monday started working at the prison six years ago, job applicants were looking for a career with good benefits and a state pension after 20 years.

Iowa brokerage CEO indicted in $200M fraud scheme

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—The founder of a bankrupt Iowa-based brokerage was indicted by a federal grand jury Monday on 31 counts of making false statements to regulators in connection with a $200 million fraud scheme.

Peregrine Financial Group Inc. CEO Russ Wasendorf Sr. could face up to 155 years in prison if convicted on all counts, prosecutors said. His attorney didn't immediately return a phone message Monday, and the date for an arraignment, where Wasendorf will enter a plea, has not been set.

Wasendorf, 64, was arrested last month while hospitalized in Iowa City following a failed suicide attempt outside Peregrine's office in Cedar Falls. Authorities said Wasendorf left a detailed suicide note in which he confessed to a 20-year scheme to commit fraud and embezzle customer funds.

Regulators said Wasendorf's company cannot account for more than $200 million in customer funds that it was supposed to be holding. Peregrine has filed for bankruptcy and is liquidating its assets, meaning more than 24,000 customers who used the company to invest in commodities ranging from corn to gold don't have access to their funds.

They are waiting to learn how much they'll get back.

The indictment alleges that Wasendorf submitted false financial documents for his company to the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission that overstated the value of Peregrine's customer money, which was supposed to be held separate from other funds, by "at least tens of millions of dollars." The 31 counts represent the number of such documents that Peregrine submitted between January 2010 and May 2012.

Wasendorf was charged last month with lying to regulators in a criminal complaint, and he has been jailed in the Linn County Jail in Cedar Rapids. Monday's indictment adds additional charges, but it was expected and provides few new details about the case.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Google cutting 4,000 jobs at Motorola unit

NEW YORK (AP)—Google Inc. is making its largest round of layoffs ever as it announced plans to cut about 4,000 jobs at Motorola Mobility just three months after buying the struggling cellphone pioneer. The move isn't surprising given years of plummeting sales at Motorola, but it signals that Google doesn't intend to drag Motorola along as a money-losing venture. After the announcement, Google's stock rose $18.01, or 2.8 percent, to close Monday at $660.01.

FedEx to offer US staff buyouts in cost cut effort

NEW YORK (AP)—FedEx will soon begin offering buyouts to U.S. employees in an effort to cut costs in the face of a weakening global economy. The world's second largest package delivery company hinted at cutbacks earlier this summer when it said that slowing economic growth would crimp its earnings well into next year. It has already removed some aircraft from its fleet of more than 600 to account for a loss of demand. While FedEx hasn't yet decided how many positions will be eliminated, it will likely focus on slow-growth areas like its Express and Services units.

Sears spinning off some stores into separate co.

NEW YORK (AP)—Sears is moving forward with plans to spin off its Hometown and Outlet stores as well as some hardware stores into a separate publicly traded company. Sears Holdings Corp. had signaled that it would split the companies back in February. There are a total of 1,238 Hometown, Outlet and hardware stores as of April 28, according to Sears, which is trying to turn around its business and spruce up its image. It has already closed five Hometown stores, eight hardware stores and one Outlet store. Sears, which also owns Kmart, has looked at spinoffs and real estate sales to restore profitability and boost shareholder confidence. Aside from the separation of the Hometown, Outlet and some hardware stores, the company announced in May that it would spin off a stake in its Canada division.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,169.43	1,404.11	3,022.52
-38.52	-1.76	+1.66
-0.29%	-0.13%	+0.05%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9508	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7567	Philippine Peso	41.9600
British Pound	0.6372	Indian Rupee	55.5850	Singapore Dollar	1.2448
Canadian Dollar	0.9933	Indonesian Rupiah	9,488.00	South Korean Won	1,129.68
Chinese Yuan	6.3660	Japanese Yen	78.4235	Swiss Franc	0.9724
Euro	0.8093	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1230	Taiwan Dollar	29.9800
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2342	Thailand Baht	31.4500

Nation

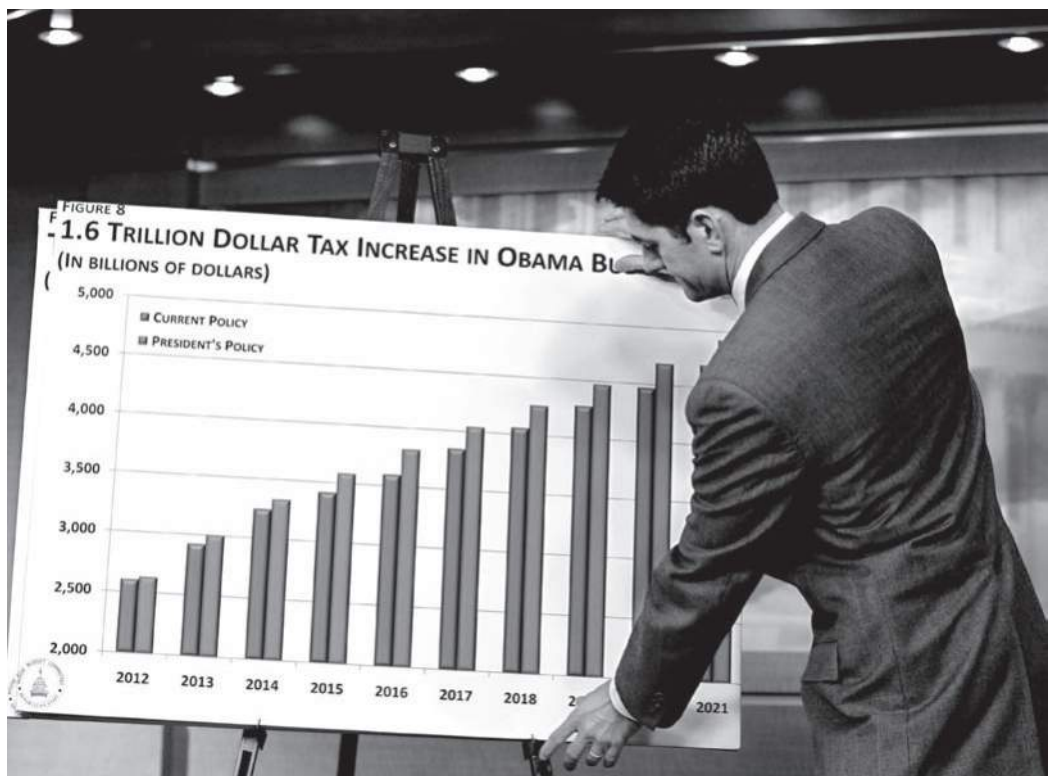
Dems insist Romney quietly supports Ryan's budgets

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (AP)—Led by President Barack Obama, Democrats claimed on Monday that Republican challenger Mitt Romney privately backs controversial plans to overhaul Medicare and cut trillions from social programs that his new vice presidential running mate has publicly proposed.

Rep. Paul Ryan "has given definition to the vague commitments that Romney has been making," Vice President Joe Biden said as the Democrats welcomed the Wisconsin lawmaker to the race with a barrage of criticism. "There is no distinction" between the two, he said.

Romney lauded his running mate's work as he resumed his own four-day bus trip through campaign battleground states.

Ryan has "come up with ideas that are very different than the president's," Romney said in Florida, the state with the highest percentage of residents age 65 and over. "The president's idea for Medicare was to cut it by $700 billion. That's not the right answer. We want to make sure that we preserve and protect Medicare."



AP

In this Feb. 14, 2011 file photo, Republican Vice Presidential candidate, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., puts up a chart as he gives the GOP response to President Obama's budget submission for Fiscal Year 2012, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The former Massachusetts governor did not say so, but the tax-and-spending plans Ryan produced in the past two years as chairman of the House Budget Committee call for the repeal of Obama's health care plan but also would retain the $700 billion in Medicare cuts that were part of it.

Romney said there may be differences between his own budget plan and Ryan's, but he refused to say what specific policies his budget would include that would differ from the Wisconsin congressman's detailed proposal.

Aides said during the day that Romney has long disagreed with that specific element of the House Republican plan, and they said while he wants to repeal the health care law he also wants to restore the funds to Medicare.

The day marked a first in the race for the White House, with both major party tickets campaigning at full strength and a little more than 80 days remaining in a campaign dominated by a weak economic recovery and a national jobless rate of 8.3 percent.

Polls taken before Romney added Ryan to his ticket over the weekend showed Obama with a slender advantage in a contest that will be decided in eight to 10 battleground states.

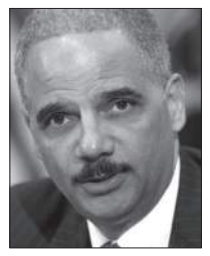
Large crowds turned out for Romney and Ryan's joint appearances over the weekend, and conservatives have hailed the selection of the Wisconsin lawmaker, who is regarded by fellow Republicans as an intellectual leader within the party on budget issues.

House files suit against Holder over gov't records

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Republican-run House on Monday asked a federal court to enforce a subpoena against Attorney General Eric Holder, demanding that he produce records on a bungled gun-tracking operation known as Operation Fast and Furious.

The lawsuit asked the court to reject a claim by President Barack Obama asserting executive privilege, a legal position designed to protect certain internal administration communications from disclosure.

The failure of Holder and House Republicans to work out a deal on the documents led to votes in June that held the attorney general in civil and criminal contempt of Congress. The civil contempt resolution led to Monday's lawsuit.



Holder

Holder refused requests by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to hand over—without preconditions—documents that could explain why the Justice Department initially denied in February 2011 that a risky tactic was used to allow firearms to "walk" from Arizona to Mexico.

Federal agents lost track of many of the guns. The operation identified more than 2,000 illicitly purchased weapons, and some 1,400 of them have yet to be recovered.

The department failed to acknowledge its incorrect statement for 10 months.

"Portentously, the (Justice) Department from the outset actively resisted cooperating fully with the committee's investigation," the lawsuit said.

"Among other things, the department initially declined to produce documents; later produced only very limited numbers of documents in piecemeal fashion; refused to make available to the committee certain witnesses; and limited the committee's questioning of other witnesses who were made available," it said.

The Justice Department previously said that it would not bring criminal charges against its boss. Democrats have labeled the civil and criminal contempt citations a political stunt.

In response to the lawsuit, Justice Department spokeswoman Tracy Schmaler said, "We were always willing to work with the committee. Instead the House and the committee have said they prefer to litigate."

Numerous lawmakers said this was the first time a Cabinet official had been held in contempt.

The lawsuit asked that:

- The executive privilege claim by Obama be declared invalid.
- Holder's objection to the House records subpoena be rejected.
- The attorney general produce all records related to the Justice Department's incorrect assertion in early 2011 that gun-walking did not take place.

Officer, gunman among 3 killed in Texas shootings

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)—A deadly shootout erupted Monday near the Texas A&M University campus when a man being brought an eviction notice opened fire on a Texas law enforcement officer, leaving three people dead, including the officer and the gunman.

Police say Thomas Alton Caffall, 35, opened fire on Brazos County Constable Brian Bachmann just after noon as the lawman brought an eviction notice. Both men were later pronounced dead at a hospital.

Police identified Chris Northcliff, 43, as the third person killed in the shootings at an off-campus home not far from the university's football stadium. Three other law enforcement officers and a 55-year-old woman were wounded, College Station Assistant Police Chief Scott McCollum said.

Caffall's sister said Monday night the family was "shocked" by the violence.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and this is just a senseless tragedy," said Courtney Clark, Caffall's sister, reached Monday evening at her mother's home in Navasota, about 20 miles to the south. "We are just distraught by the havoc that he has caused."

AP

This undated photo provided by the City of College Station, Texas shows Thomas Caffall.

She declined additional comment.

Officers responding Monday afternoon to reports of an officer down saw Bachmann wounded on the ground in the front yard, then got into what McCollum described as an extended shootout with Caffall, who eventually was shot.

Police spokeswoman Rhonda Seaton said Northcliff was outside the home when he was shot, as was the wounded woman, whose name had not been released by Monday evening.

The woman was hospitalized in serious condition following surgery. One of the injured officers, Justin Oehlkee, was treated for a gunshot wound in the calf and was in stable condition, Seaton said. Two other officers—Brad Smith and Phil Dorsett, were treated for "shrapnel injuries" and released, Seaton said.

Police declined to speculate on a motive for the gunfire.

The shootings prompted Texas A&M to issue an emergency alert warning students and residents to stay away from the area. Most of the university's 50,000 students were not on the campus about 90 miles northwest of Houston because the fall semester doesn't start until Aug. 27, university spokeswoman Sherylon Carroll said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mayo Clinic: Jackson has bipolar disorder

CHICAGO (AP)—U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., a Chicago Democrat who took a hushed medical leave two months ago, is being treated for bipolar disorder, the Mayo Clinic announced Monday. The Rochester, Minn.-based clinic specified his condition as Bipolar II, which is defined as periodic episodes of depression and hypomania, a less serious form of mania. "Congressman Jackson is responding well to the treatment and regaining his strength," the clinic said in a statement. Bipolar II is a treatable condition that affects parts of the brain controlling emotion, thought and drive and is likely caused "by a complex set of genetic and environmental factors," the clinic said. The statement also mentioned that Jackson underwent weight loss surgery in 2004 and said such a surgery can change how the body absorbs foods and medications, among other things.

Bill banning cellphone disruption heads to Brown

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Legislation that would ban government agencies from disrupting cellphone service without a court order is heading to Gov. Jerry Brown. The state Senate approved SB1160 on a unanimous vote Monday. The Assembly passed the bill last week. The bill by Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of Los Angeles came in response to the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, which cut wireless service in San Francisco subway stations last year to disrupt a planned protest. The shutdown sparked a global free speech debate.

Hearse driver dies while taking body to funeral

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Beverly Hills police say a hearse driver who was found dead with a body in the vehicle died while taking the casket to a funeral. Lt. Lincoln Hoshino says authorities were alerted that a body was slumped over in the driver's seat of a hearse parked near the Beverly Hills Hotel at about 3 p.m. Monday. Hoshino says the investigation is in its early stages but the woman appears to have died of natural causes, with no weapons or evidence of violence discovered. Coroner's investigators will make a final determination of the cause of death.

Asia

NKoreans recount terror when flood engulfed hamlet

UNGOK, North Korea (AP)—Tears rolled down Ri Hyang Ran's cheeks as she recalled her terror the night floods engulfed her farming-and-mining hamlet northeast of North Korea's capital, Pyongyang.

As the rain pounded down, town officials went door to door hustling residents out of their homes in the middle of the night. Still in her pajamas, Ri said she only had time to grab two things: her portraits of North Korea's late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

Huddling with her neighbors in the mountains high above the village, she could see nothing in the darkness but the sheets of rain that pummeled Songchon county on the night of July 23.

"But I could hear the sound of walls collapsing, and it was terrifying," she told The Associated Press on Monday, wiping her tears away with a towel. When dawn broke, she discovered that her home for the past two decades was gone, swept away by the torrent of water that tore through this part of South Phyongan province.

The threat of floods is nothing new to the area, a valley where the waters from four regions converge. But this year's rains were the worst in recent memory, villagers said Monday, many standing on the rocky dirt where their homes once stood.

The floods not only killed at least 169 North Koreans nationwide and destroyed tens of thousands of homes, according to official accounts, but also left huge swaths of farmland submerged in water. Across the county, corn, rice and soybean plants already damaged from a protracted drought in May and June lay withered and stunted just a month before harvesting season is set to begin.

Mountainous North Korea already struggles to feed its people. A U.N. report in June said some two-thirds of the country's 24 million people are coping with food shortages, with hunger dire in some areas. Emergency food aid shipments started last week, the World Food Program said.

The prospect of flooding strikes fear in North Koreans, who well remember when heavy rains in the mid-1990s triggered deadly landslides. An ensuing famine killed hundreds of thousands of people, according to economist Marcus Noland, during a period North Koreans call "the Arduous March."

New leader Kim Jong Un addressed land management in the first official treatise issued after he took power following the death of his father Kim Jong Il in December, calling for

AP

Displaced North Korean women, left homeless by July flooding, walk among temporary tents set up in their destroyed neighborhood in Ungok, North Korea on Monday, Aug. 13, 2012.

officials to shore up rivers and reforest mountains denuded of trees in decades past.

Along the rutted roads to Songchon county, soldiers and workers were carrying boulders, sometimes one by one, to rebuild levees damaged by the floods and repair collapsed roadways that have left villages such as Ungok District cut off from the relief and repair work.

The AP was among several foreign media organizations taken by the North's Red Cross Society to the village on a requested reporting trip Monday. The journalists were not escorted by government minders.

Ri, who lost her home in Ungok District, said she stayed with neighbors until the Red Cross came last week with emergency supplies: blankets, a hand mirror, a camping kitchen set, medicine, a water jug and a tarp that she draped over a rustic wooden frame made of branches. The box that the goods came in served as a dresser; her husband's clothes hung on a clothesline outside.

"As long as they can reopen the roads and bring in cement, we can start rebuilding—and my home really was grand," she said, dissolving into tears. She said she wishes she had saved family photos and the medals her sons won during their military service.

North Koreans are taught from childhood to revere the Kim family, and portraits of the two late leaders are prominent in every home. It is not unusual for them to be protected with more care than family photos.

Ri said she had only a split second to leave and grabbed the portraits off the wall as she fled. She said they are being stored at her husband's workplace for safekeeping.

A few tents down, Pak Un Su sat hugging her 5-year-old daughter as she recalled the terror of that night.

"I came rushing out in my shorts," she said, sobbing. "You have no idea how scared my child was. She was yelling `Mother, run faster! The rain's coming down hard!"

Next to her on the navy blue blanket provided by the Red Cross, she had set up a temporary kitchen: a bag of potatoes, squash in a green plastic bowl, utensils washed and stored in a red container. Outside, a tin pot of cornmeal noodles sat on a makeshift campfire.

"My heart hurts when I think about how we're going to live without a home," she said. "We have to hurry and rebuild."

ASIA BRIEFS

New storm dumps rain in flood-battered Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A new storm is dumping more rain in the flood-battered northern Philippines a week after nearly 100 people died in a monsoon deluge that submerged half of the sprawling capital city. Rescuers evacuated flood-prone areas in Manila's suburban Quezon City on Monday, and Rosario town in Cavite province southwest of Manila closed schools because of downpours. The weather agency says Tropical Depression Helen is whirling over the Pacific Ocean with sustained winds of 55 kilometers (34 miles) per hour and will become a tropical storm. It's unlikely to hit land, but will bring heavy to intense monsoon rains. More than 400,000 people fled their homes last week when floods swamped Manila and nearby provinces.

Nepal church threatened by extremist Hindu group

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A Catholic church in Nepal says it has received threatening phone calls from a person claiming to belong to an underground Hindu group that bombed the church three years ago. Robin Giri of Assumption Church in the southern suburbs of Katmandu said Tuesday that the caller last week threatened to bomb the church if they did not give the group money. The caller didn't specify the amount and said he would call back later. Three people were killed when the church was bombed in May 2009 during prayers. It was the first such attack on a church in Nepal, where most of the population is Hindu and Christians are a small minority.

NKorea official visiting China for economic talks

BEIJING (AP)—Kim Jong Un's powerful uncle will visit China on Tuesday to discuss economic cooperation with North Korea's most important ally. North Korean state media said Monday that Jang Song Thaek will meet with senior Chinese officials on joint development of the countries' special economic zones. Kim, who has led North Korea since his father's death in December, has promoted younger economists to key party positions as part of a stated push to resuscitate his country's economy. North Korea has lagged far behind the rest of Northeast Asia economically, and much of the nation is impoverished outside the capital Pyongyang.

Tibetans clash with police in west China; 1 dead

BEIJING (AP)—Police in far west China beat a Tibetan man to death during a clash that broke out after two Tibetans set themselves on fire, a U.S. broadcaster said Tuesday, in the worst flaring of violence in the region in months.

The violence occurred Monday in Sichuan province's Aba prefecture, which has emerged as a center of political activism and the site of dozens of self-immolations in the past few years. The area, home to the influential Kirti Monastery, has been flooded with security forces, but they have been unable to stop the immolation protests.

Radio Free Asia said in an emailed statement that a Kirti monk named Lungtok and another man, identified only as Tashi, set themselves alight Monday evening. It cited a Tibetan in the Aba area who was not identified by name and other unidentified people inside Tibet.

The report said a large number of police tried to clear the immolation site and ended up clashing with Tibetans. It said one man was beaten to death, but gave no other details. There was no way to independently confirm the report.

A woman who answered the telephone at the Aba police department said there had been no immolations or confrontations between police and Tibetan locals. "Nothing like that has happened," said the woman, who like many bureaucrats in China refused to give her name. The phone of the local Communist Party Propaganda Office rang unanswered.

A man who answered the phone at the Kirti monastery management committee office hung up when asked to comment.

Radio Free Asia said the two men who self-immolated were taken to a hospital by Chinese security forces, but that their condition was unknown.

Nearly 50 Tibetans have set themselves on fire in China since 2009, with many shouting anti-government slogans and calling for the return of their exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. At least 17 were monks or former monks from Kirti, according to an earlier tally from the International Campaign for Tibet.

Monday's clash with police marked the worst flaring of violence in Sichuan since a series of protests in January that Tibetan activist groups say left six Tibetans dead. The Chinese government said at the time that two rioters were killed.

The unrest comes as China enters a sensitive period, with the top leaders of the ruling Communist Party set to change by the end of this year.

China says Tibet has always been part of its territory, but many Tibetans say the Himalayan region was virtually independent for centuries until Chinese troops invaded in the 1950s.

Beijing blames the Dalai Lama for fanning anti-government sentiment and routinely purges monasteries and nunneries, where support for the Dalai Lama and Tibetan independence runs high.

China mum on dates for leadership change meeting

BEIJING (AP)—China's ruling Communists are sticking to their trademark secrecy by keeping mum on the dates of a major party congress this fall that will install a new set of leaders.

Communist Party officials insisted at a news conference Tuesday that they were committed to increased transparency, and said they were introducing greater democracy in selecting the 2,270 delegates to attend the 18th national party congress.

But when questioned about when the congress would start, the deputy head of the party's Organization Department, Wang Jingqing, repeated previous statements, saying only that it was planned for the second half of the year.

Wang also said he did not know whether the all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee would remain at its current size of nine seats or shrink to seven, as some analysts have speculated.

"Not even I know," Wang said.

Habitual secrecy is a key characteristic of the ruling party, a product of its origins as a beleaguered guerrilla movement and more than 60 years of authoritarian rule with no opposition or free press. Little is known about the private lives of the leadership, and dates for major party events aren't announced until the last minute.

The congress will mark a once-in-a-decade leadership turnover, with seven of the Standing Committee members stepping down, including Hu Jintao, who is both president and party leader, and a new crop of technocrats being brought in to steer the world's second-largest economy.

Vice President Xi Jinping is expected to succeed Hu as party leader before assuming the presidency as well next spring. Xi will head a Standing Committee packed with proxies for Hu and other outgoing leaders, and it likely will be years before he is able to set his seal on the country's governance.

Delegates are carefully selected and vetted for political reliability and competence, although Wang said procedures for doing so had been streamlined and institutionalized to make them more efficient.

World

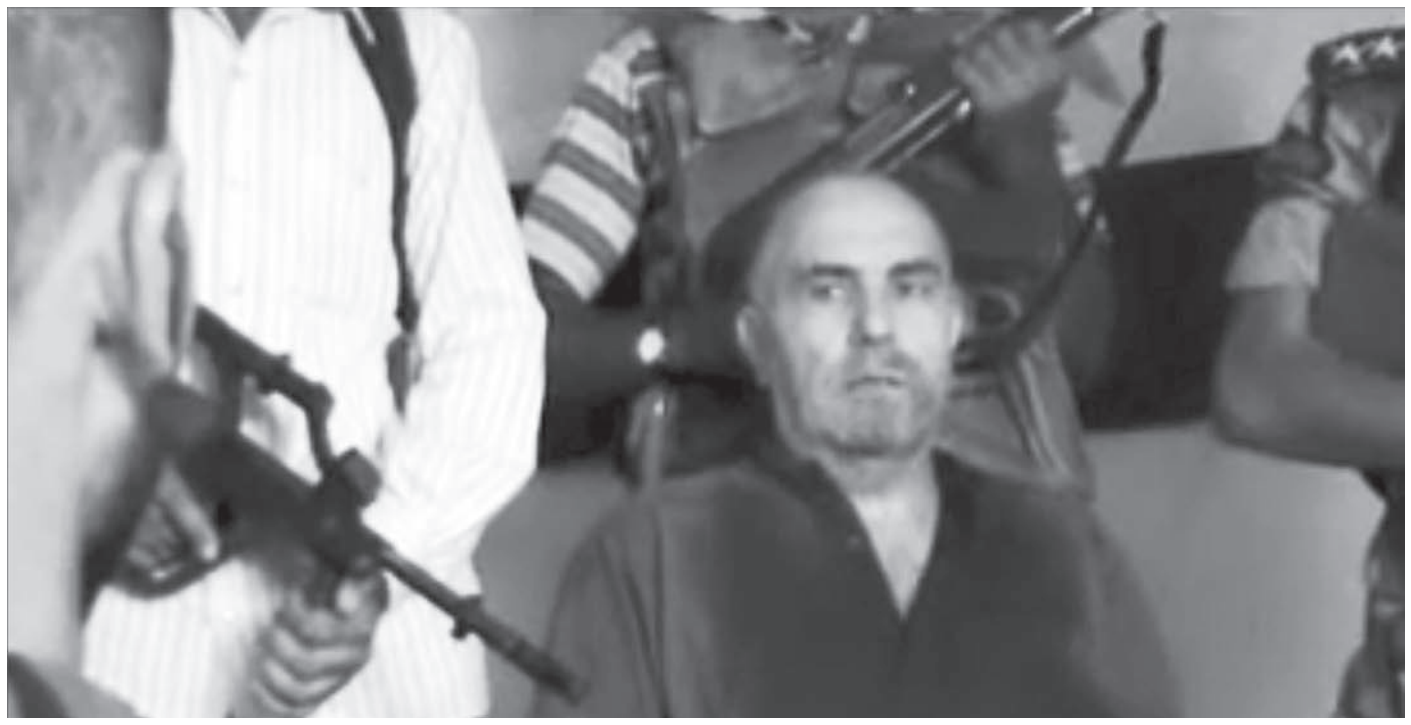
Rebel video claims to show captured Syrian pilot

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian rebels circulated dramatic video Monday of what they claimed was the downing of a warplane and armed men later holding the captured pilot who ejected as the MiG fighter was engulfed by flames. Syria acknowledged a pilot bailed out of a disabled plane but blamed the crash on a technical malfunction.

The authenticity of the images or the claims could not be independently verified. If the rebels did bring down their first aircraft, that could signal a significant jump in their firepower and give opposition forces their most high-profile military captive.

But wider questions remain even if the rebel reports are confirmed, including whether this could be just a one-time blow against expanding air offensives by the forces of Bashar Assad's regime. Just days ago, protesters across Syria pleaded for the rebels' main backers—including Turkey and Gulf states—to send anti-aircraft weapons for outgunned fighters.

Assad's military has significantly stepped up aerial attacks in recent weeks. Strafing from warplanes and close-range missile strikes from helicopter gunships have pushed back rebels in key fronts such as Aleppo, the country's largest city and the scene of fierce attacks to dislodge rebel positions.



AP

This image made from amateur video released by the Shaam News Network purports to show Syrian Pilot Colonel Rafik Mohammed Suleiman being interrogated by rebel officers after his Soviet-made MiG warplane was apparently hit by ground fire over Deir el-Zour province, an area near the Iraqi border, Syria, Monday Aug. 13, 2012.

As the sun was setting on Monday, an Associated Press reporter saw two fighter jets over the village of Marea, 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Aleppo.

Terrified residents collected on street corners and near the doors to their houses to watch and point as the jets dived low, dropping bombs that sent up clouds of smoke and firing machine guns that crackled over the village.

On one crowded market street, a handful of rebels with rifles ran toward the site of the bombings.

"What are you going to do, bring down a jet with a rifle?" a man screamed.

After the jets left, young men on motorcycles rushed to the bombing site on the edge of the village to find two craters the size of cars in a dirt field next to a swimming pool.

A man working at the privately owned pool said only three people were there at the time and that none was injured. He didn't give his name and tried to chase away journalists and residents seeking to film the pool.

It is unclear why the area was targeted. Residents said there was no rebel base nearby.

"In the summer, it's hot so the guys gather here to swim," said Abdullah Najjar, 21, adding that some of them could have been rebels.

"This is the only place we have in town to come for entertainment."

Nationwide, the relentless bloodshed—including alleged massacres by pro-regime mobs and retaliation killings by rebels—has already claimed more than 20,000 lives, activists say, and will be further examined in a report expected Wednesday by the U.N. Human Rights Council's independent commission probing abuses in Syria.

In another crack in Assad's diplomatic corps, a Syrian diplomat who worked with the U.N. rights council in Geneva said he left his post to join the opposition. A spokesman for the council, Rolando Gomez, identified the Syrian as Danny al-Baaj and described him as a junior member of his country's U.N. mission. Syria is not a member of the 47-nation council, but al-Baaj worked with it as part of his duties.

The claims of bringing down the warplane and capturing the pilot, meanwhile, are likely to become a key propaganda tool to rally rebel fighters.

Activists released a video which they say showed a government Soviet-made MiG warplane catching fire after it was hit by ground fire over Deir el-Zour province, an area near the Iraqi border where the opposition has strongholds. Hours later, another video shown on the pan-Arab network Al-Arabiya purported to show the captured pilot surrounded by armed rebels. "Introduce yourself," says another speaker with his back to the camera.

The alleged captive identified himself as Col. Rafik Mohammed Suleiman and says he was on a mission to attack a rebel-held area.

"What do you tell the officers of the Assad army?" the speaker asks the man, whose beard and hair are flecked with gray. The man who identified himself as the pilot urges them to defect.

Israel plunged into unprecedented debate about war

JERUSALEM (AP)—To attack or not to attack? With Israeli politicians warning repeatedly that Iran is secretly pursuing nuclear weapons, this question has spawned an unprecedented amount of agonizing even in a country accustomed to war and incessant debate.

The teeth gnashing plays out everywhere from the halls of parliament to news talk shows to people's living rooms. Should Israel undertake a risky mission to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities? Should it trust the United States to do the job if necessary? Can it live with a nuclear Iran? Should politicians even be talking about this in public?

"A country that is debating whether to attack or not to attack usually doesn't spill its guts," said veteran Israeli journalist Motti Kirshenbaum. He noted that Israel's usual pattern is to dissect a military offensive after it happens—not discuss it beforehand.

The public appears to be largely taking the furor in stride, in part because some suspect Israel's leaders are essentially bluffing in order to compel the world to get serious about the issue. But there is a growing sense of foreboding: Even Defense Minister Ehud Barak, who is believed to favor an attack, says hundreds will die in the counterstrike, and there is awareness of the global security and economic mayhem that war with Iran could unleash.

Never in Israel's history has there been so much talk about an impending war, security affairs analyst and Iran expert Yossi Melman wrote in a column on the Walla! news website on Monday.

"It's one thing for the media to blather about it, but why are leaders and senior officials chattering themselves to death?" he asked.

Although Israel's leaders frequently lament about all the Iran "chitchat," make no mistake: It's they who are fueling the discussion.

The Iranian threat, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday, "dwarfs any challenge the Israeli home front faces."

True, no Israeli leader has explicitly threatened to attack Iran. Netanyahu and Barak—considered here the main champions of a pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear facilities—have said no decision has yet been made. But they sometimes seem at pains to make sure the message is not missed.

Netanyahu has been warning about an Iranian nuclear threat since the 1990s, invoking comparisons with the Holocaust and sidelining all other foreign policy issues during his latest tenure as prime minister.

In recent months, amid the intensity of economic sanctions and boycotts against Iran, there have been hints of self-congratulation related to the theory that only Israeli saber-rattling could have pushed a world eager to mollify Israel and prevent an attack in this fortunate direction.

But of late the media here has filled with leaked reports attributable to "senior officials" projecting a sense that patience is growing thin: The sanctions don't go far enough, and although they have fueled inflation and hammered the standard of living in Iran, they fall short, especially because Russia and China notably refuse to fall into line.

Hints dropped privately by senior officials and multiple warnings by Israeli leaders about time growing short have created the impression here that Netanyahu and Barak have given up on the idea of pressuring Iran through economic and diplomatic sanctions, and are out to attack by early fall unless Iran abandons its uranium enrichment program, a key element in making atomic weapons.

Al-Qaida claims attack on Iraq security HQ

BAGHDAD (AP)—Al-Qaida's branch in Iraq claimed responsibility Monday for a double bombing that targeted a counterterrorism unit in Baghdad last month.

The al-Qaida statement claimed 70 people were killed in the July 31 attack on the security headquarters. Government and security officials put the death toll for all the violence that hit the capital that day at 21.

In a statement posted Monday on a militant website, the Islamic State of Iraq, al-Qaida's Iraqi branch, said a group of "believers from the Sunni people" attacked a unit that is part of the pro-Iranian forces in the country. Iran is a regional Shiite powerhouse.

The militant group also claimed responsibility for 27 shootings and other attacks on government and security officials from June 17 until July 20.

Also Monday, gunmen with silenced pistols shot dead three policemen at a checkpoint in Sadiyah neighborhood in western Baghdad, a police official said.

A medic at a nearby hospital confirmed the death toll. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to reporters.

Security forces and government offices are top targets for insurgents seeking to undermine the Shiite-led Iraqi government's authority.

Al-Qaida's local wing has for years had a hot-and-cold relationship with the global terror network's leadership.

Both shared the goal of targeting the U.S. military in Iraq and, to an extent, undermining the Shiite government that replaced Saddam Hussein's regime. But al-Qaida leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri distanced themselves from the Iraqi militants in 2007 for also killing Iraqi civilians instead of focusing on Western targets.

President shifts Egypt's balance of power

CAIRO (AP)—In retaking key powers and shaking up the military brass, President Mohammed Morsi has sharply shifted Egypt's balance of power overnight and transformed his public image from a weak leader to a savvy politician.

If unchallenged, the moves could end six decades of de facto military rule in Egypt. But they also raise a new concern at home and abroad—the concentration of power in the hands of Islamists.

With the military as the backbone of the Egyptian state for the past 60 years, the country's first civilian and freely elected president must have closely coordinated his moves with top members of the military establishment to ensure their execution, according to analysts who closely monitor Egypt's military.

That reality underlines how much care a civilian president must take if he wants to assert his authority over a military accustomed to having one of its own filling the land's highest office.

The military sent a message of reassurance Monday about Morsi's surprise decision to retire the defense minister and chief of staff and retake powers the generals grabbed from his office days before his June 30 inauguration.

A posting on a Facebook page known to be close to the generals said the changes, announced by Morsi Sunday, amounted to the "natural" handing over of leadership to a younger generation.

Focus

Rebels carve out large enclave in north Syria

AZAZ, Syria (AP)—Residents of this north Syrian border town like to snap photos of their children atop the tank parked downtown, one of more than a dozen captured or destroyed by rebels in the battles last month that "liberated" the area from President Bashar Assad's army.

Across the street in air-conditioned offices once occupied by Assad's Baath party, a new political order is emerging. Local rebels have formed committees to fix power lines, fire up bakeries and staff the nearby border crossing with Turkey. They also run security patrols and a prison with some 60 captives. Two men were executed by firing squad recently after a judge and Islamic clerics found them guilty of murder.

"We run a state system here," said Samir Hajj Omar, the silver-haired former teacher who heads the rebel political office for Azaz, a town of 35,000. "We're enforcing the law."

In recent months, Syria's rebels have extended control over a large swath of territory in the northeastern corner of the country after forcing the army from town after town in a string of bloody street battles.

As a result, for the first time in Syria's 17-month conflict, rebels have a cohesive enclave in which they can move and organize with unprecedented freedom, plus a long stretch of the border with Turkey key for moving out refugees and smuggling in weapons. They also have one official, working border crossing.

The area extends about 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of the Turkish border and from the edge of Idlib province in the west to the cities of al-Bab and Manbaj some 130 kilometers (80 miles) east. Its southern edges reach the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and for weeks the scene of heavy battles as regime forces try to uproot rebels who have taken control of several neighborhoods.

The pocket is not an outright safe zone. The military holds two bases within it—at Mannagh airport near Azaz and at an infantry academy north of Aleppo. From there, it shells nearby towns daily, wrecking buildings and killing people. It often targets rebel enclaves with helicopters and fighter jets; there remains a continual back-and-forth of residents fleeing homes around the areas.

But the army has largely surrendered the ground, creating a huge vacuum for rebels to fill. Across the scattered farm towns, locals have formed councils to remove rubble, restore utilities and funnel supplies to fighters in Aleppo. They organize security patrols to guard against thieves and government spies. Some are running prisons and rudimentary courts.

AP

In this photo from Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012, Fatoum Obeid, 50, stands in a pile of trash left by Syrian soldiers who occupied her home in Atarib, Syria. In recent months rebels have seized a huge swath of territory in northern Syria, giving them a freedom to move and organize unprecedented in the 17-month conflict.

Their efforts are hugely decentralized. Each town is on its own. There is no national, or even regional, body for them to report to.

Since the anti-Assad uprising started in March 2011 with protests calling for political change, opposition leaders have failed to offer little more than a vague idea of the kind of state they hope to found should the regime fall. More than 20,000 people have been killed since as the conflict has transformed into a full-scale civil war.

While still new, these early organizational efforts shine a light on the priorities of rising local leaders. When asked, all say they want a civilian state that respects its citizens. More concerning to the West and to Syria's religious minorities, most said that Islam was their guide more than any political ideology. What that means for them remains unformed in many ways, but what is clear is that they seek a role for religion in public life after four decades of secular rule.

"Religion is the basis of everything for us," said Abdel-Aziz Salameh, head of a "revolutionary council" that coordinates various rebel factions in Aleppo and the nearby countryside. "It is the driving force of the revolution."

Salameh spoke from the basement of the police station in Tal Rifat, some 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Aleppo, now the headquarters of one of Syria's largest rebel groupings, the Islamist Brigade of Unification.

Fighter jets screeched overhead, and the dull booms of shelling punctuated the conversation.

"May God curse you," the 46-year-old honey distributor said, looking up as the lights flickered.

The brigade, formed last month, now boasts more than 7,000 fighters, Salameh said, bringing together some of the armed factions in the Aleppo region that cropped up as army recruits defected and locals took up arms. Before a new group can join, it must agree not to target civilians or their property and to bring all prisoners to one of the brigade's two prisons, which now house some 500 captives.

This is to prevent fighters from settling personal scores or kidnapping wealthy people for ransom, Salameh said.

Like most rebel leaders, Salameh bemoaned the lack of military support he said the rebels had received from abroad. The small amounts trickling in from governments and private groups he declined to name have done little to help his fighters, most of whom carry arms taken as booty or bought from dealers in Turkey or Iraq.

Salameh acknowledged that many rebel groups operate independently and that a small number want to kill Shiite Muslims and Alawites, the Shiite offshoot sect to which Assad and many in his regime belong.

He said such views violate the tenets of Islam that his group follows, but said not all fighters can be vetted.

"When we're at war, I don't have time to ask every fighter what his views are," he said. "I tell him to put his rifle next to mine and fight."

Most of the brigades in the enclave region formed to fight the army in their own towns and moved on only after their streets were "liberated." Many of these battles were Pyrrhic victories, leaving entire areas destroyed and depopulated.

In the town of Atarib, 30 kilometers (20 miles) southwest of Aleppo, every building downtown is damaged, with windows blown out, doors peppered with shrapnel and awnings shredded to ribbons.

At the center sit the charred shells of the police station and city hall, which troops occupied in February. For months, local rebels attacked their positions and tried to cut their supply lines. By the time the army left in June, the city was destroyed and deserted.

When asked how many of the town's 25,000 residents had returned since its "liberation," the head of Atarib's military council laughed.

"If you put them all in the back of a semi-truck, there'd still be space," said Obeid Ahmed Obeid. Others guessed it was a few hundred.

Nearby, Fatum Obeid, a 50-year-old widow, wandered through the wreckage of her simple home, asking God to destroy Assad and his mother.

Two of her sons had been killed in the uprising. One returned from his mandatory military service in a body bag with no explanation. Another was shot dead by a government sniper before she and other residents fled to nearby villages.

"We'd sit and watch the troops come, then hear the booms and see the smoke," she said.

Town leaders have formed military and civil councils and opened a prison that holds some 15 people.

The army still shells the town daily, keeping residents away, and making some wonder how free they are.

"It's not liberated because you can't sit down without worrying that a rocket will fall on you," said a local activist who declined to give his name because he often travels to Aleppo.

The violence has caused a continuous human tide, first pushing rural residents into Aleppo and then out as the battle there rages. As shelling continues around the province, it is common to see large families driving trucks piled high with washing machines, mattresses and bags of clothing. Many seek shelter in schools, farms and unfinished buildings in villages that local leaders have struggled to keep safe.

The refugees have doubled the population of the village of Maaret al-Artiq to 25,000 in recent months, said Omar Zahra, a resident who helps them find shelter.

"They'll live in any building they can find as long as it's better than a tent," he said.

Azaz, the border town, has fared better than others. Residents are coming home, a few shops have opened and armed men run checkpoints at the town's entrances. Young boys climb around on the destroyed tanks and armored vehicles half buried in the rubble of the security building rebels brought down with homemade bombs.

Graffiti by government soldiers on one wall boasts, "Assad's beasts were here." After they left, someone crossed out "Assad" and wrote "the donkey."

In his vast, carpeted office, Omar, the silver-haired former teacher, fielded calls on three cell phones and two land lines while chatting with visitors. When asked how he got his job, he said it was "automatic" because of his role in the uprising.

As he spoke, however, the now-familiar sounds of a protest rose from the streets below—but this time with a twist.

"This protest is mostly against me," Omar acknowledged with a laugh, dismissing the few dozen marchers as upstarts who wanted power without working for it.

"They feel they were left outside," he said. "But should someone who was sitting on the sidelines come and sit here, or someone who was here for the battle?"

Campus Life

Mich. student with Down syndrome can play sports

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT (AP)—A 19-year-old student with Down syndrome on Thursday won the right to play football and basketball his senior year, two months after the council that governs high school sports in Michigan agreed to allow some flexibility in an age-limit rule that for years had been absolute.

The decision by the Michigan High School Athletic Association's executive committee, received Thursday by Ishpeming High School, ends Eric Dompierre's three-year fight to keep playing sports as a 12th-grader. Dompierre started school late because of the genetic disorder.

The MHSAA executive committee's judgment followed a vote by state schools to lift the age limit for sports eligibility under certain circumstances. Shortly after the vote results were revealed in late May, Dompierre formally filed a waiver request with the MHSAA.

The push to loosen the age requirement was accelerated after Dompierre petitioned to be able to play sports this season at the high school west of Marquette in the central Upper Peninsula.

A two-paragraph letter signed by MHSAA executive director John E. Roberts arrived Thursday.

The school contacted Eric Dompierre's father, Dean, who said his reaction was "relief."

"I'm proud of Eric and everything that he did to help not only himself but the other kids who are in his shoes," Dean Dompierre said. "I feel a great deal of thankfulness to everybody who came together to help these kids out. I'm amazed that it was done in time to help Eric and allow Eric to play."

Dean Dompierre said he immediately texted his son, who had just gotten home from football practice.

"Just like I am, he's relieved. I think he's been stressed out the last few days waiting to find out what the MHSAA decided. He's asked me several times if I've heard anything," Dean Dompierre said.

Eric Dompierre, a kicker, has been practicing with the team since practices began on Monday. He had been barred from playing in games prior to the waiver ruling. Dean Dompierre said his son had a few kicking attempts and got in for a play or two at another position last season, and coaches have said they plan to work the 5-foot-2, 141-pounder into game action a bit more this year.

Eric Dompierre will turn 20 in January.

Under the previous language of the MHSAA's constitution, students who turned 19 before Sept. 1 were prohibited from playing sports for the full academic year.

Michigan was one of about 40 states using a maximum age of 19 or younger.

▲ Eric Dompierre on Thursday won the right to play football and basketball his senior year.

◄ Eric Dompierre, right, who plays for Ishpeming, is 19. He began school a year later than most students because he has Down syndrome.

► Eric Dompierre, right, poses with his father Dean.

Government opens competition for new school grants

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hoping to build on state-level reforms aimed at closing the education achievement gap, the Education Department opened its Race to the Top competition to school districts on Sunday, inviting the poorest districts across the country to vie for almost $400 million in grants.

Following four months of public comment on a draft proposal, the Education Department unveiled its final criteria for the district-level competition, which will award 15 to 25 grants to districts that have at least 2,000 students and 40 percent or more who qualify for free or reduced-cost lunches—a key poverty indicator.

Grants will range from $5 million to $40 million, depending on the size of the district.

"We want to help schools become engines of innovation through personalized learning so that every child in America can receive the world-class public education they deserve," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement.

The original Race to the Top competition, announced in 2009, set out to provide more than $4 billion in grants to states that undertook ambitious education reforms. Dozens of states changed laws, introduced new teacher evaluation programs and lifted caps on charter schools to qualify for a slice of the funds.

Congress approved about $550 million for Race to the Top this year, and the Education Department expects to use about $383 million of it for grants to districts that propose ambitious reforms to personalize learning, narrow the achievement gap and prepare students for college. The rest will go toward the department's early learning competition.

School districts in states that received money in previous years will still be eligible to apply. Districts can propose programs that affect all or just some of their schools, and can also band together to apply for grants. Proposals geared to specific grades or subject areas also will be considered.

To be eligible, districts must put in place evaluation systems to measure performance of teachers, principals and superintendents by the 2014-2015 school year. The Education Department also planned initially to require school board evaluations and personalized learning plans for students, but officials said they eliminated both requirements based on public objections.

It remains to be seen whether the district-level competition will be alluring enough to entice districts to enact sweeping reforms, said Michael Petrilli, executive vice president at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

"It seems that the response from the districts has been somewhat anemic, "Petrilli said. "Simply put, there's just much less money at stake than there was for the states."

School districts are expected to signal their intent to apply by the end of August, with applications due on Oct. 30. Districts will find out whether they've been selected for a grant by the end of the year.

Life&Style

Helen Gurley Brown, the original Carrie Bradshaw

NEW YORK (AP)—Before there was "Sex and the City," there was "Sex and the Single Girl." And before there was Carrie Bradshaw, there was Helen Gurley Brown.

True, Carrie, the fun-loving and fashionable sex columnist of the HBO series, was fictional. But such was the influence of Brown, the long-serving Cosmopolitan editor (and "Sex and the Single Girl" author) who died Monday at age 90, that her admirers reached into pop culture as well as recent American history to describe her importance.

"Carrie and her friends couldn't have lived the lives they did without Helen," said Bonnie Fuller, the celebrity editor who succeeded Brown at Cosmopolitan in 1997. "She was the first woman to say you could have it all—and by that she meant a career AND a man AND a hot sex life. She was a visionary. She created the modern woman."

And why limit talk of her influence to the United States? "Hers has been a liberating message for women in other countries, too," said Kate White, current editor of Cosmopolitan. "It's about choice—choosing the life you want, and not worrying about what people think."

And, well, having fun—in the bedroom, to be precise. After all, why should sex be fun only for men? Brown's motto was emblazoned on a pillow in her office, says White: "Good girls go to heaven," it said. "Bad girls go everywhere."

White recalled on Monday that she was in high school when her mother gave her a gift: "Sex and the Single Girl," Brown's million-selling 1962 advice book on how to get a man (and enjoy doing it.) Mom was quick to advise the young Kate that she should skip over the saucy tips. But she knew her daughter wanted to be in publishing. "She's a blueprint for you," Mom said.

AP

This 1990 file photo shows Cosmopolitan magazine editor Helen Gurley Brown in her New York office. Brown, longtime editor of Cosmopolitan magazine, died Monday, Aug. 13, 2012 at a hospital in New York after a brief hospitalization. She was 90.

It wasn't just women who were hailing Brown as a visionary, of course: New York City's Mayor Michael Bloomberg called her "a pioneer who reshaped not only the entire media industry, but the nation's culture. She was a role model for the millions of women whose private thoughts, wonders and dreams she addressed so brilliantly in print."

And none other than Hugh Hefner called her "a very important and independent voice related to the changing of women's' roles."

In a telephone interview, the Playboy founder and publisher said he first met Brown, who later became a good friend, in a phone call after she wrote "Sex and the Single Girl." Brown was interested in creating what Hefner called a women's version of Playboy; Hefner felt he was too busy. A few years later in 1965, when she was hired by Hearst Magazines to revamp the lagging Cosmopolitan, Hefner gave her advice, he said. (He takes a little credit for Brown's famous 1972 Burt Reynolds nude centerfold, saying it was a nod to his magazine.)

Though Brown featured big-haired women with deep cleavage on her covers, she herself was a tiny, almost frail-looking woman, 5 feet 4 and about 100 pounds—a weight she maintained through vigorous diet and exercise.

"You can't be sexual at 60 if you're fat," she observed on her 60th birthday. Or wrinkled, apparently: She spoke freely of her own multiple cosmetic surgeries, including a nose job, facelifts and silicone injections.

Helen Gurley was born Feb. 18, 1922, in Green Forest, Ark. As a young girl, she earned pocket money by giving other kids dance lessons. Her father died when she was 10 and her mother, a teacher, moved the family to Los Angeles.

After high school, where she was valedictorian, and with typing and shorthand learned at a business college, she went through a long series of secretarial jobs at places like the William Morris Agency, the Daily News in Los Angeles, and, in 1948, the Foote, Cone & Belding advertising agency. There, when finally given a shot at writing ad copy, she began winning prizes and was hired away by Kenyon & Eckhardt, which made her the highest-paid woman in advertising on the West Coast.

At 37, she married the twice-divorced David Brown, a former Cosmopolitan managing editor-turned-movie producer, whose credits would include "The Sting" and "Jaws." They would have no children, by choice, she said.

He encouraged her to write a book. When "Sex and the Single Girl" became a top seller, they moved to New York. A movie version of the book ensued, with Natalie Wood playing a character named Helen Gurley Brown who had no resemblance to the original. According to Hearst, "Sex and the Single Girl" has been translated into 16 languages and published in 28 countries.

Brown and her husband pitched a women's magazine idea at Hearst, which turned it down, but hired her to run Cosmopolitan instead. It became her platform for 32 years.

She said at the outset that her aim was to tell a reader "how to get everything out of life—the money, recognition, success, men, prestige, authority, dignity—whatever she is looking at through the glass her nose is pressed against."

"It was a terrific magazine," she said, looking back when she surrendered the editorship of the U.S. edition in 1997. "I would want my legacy to be, `She created something that helped people.' My reader, I always felt, was someone who needed to come into her own."

But Brown and Cosmo didn't please some feminists. "The stuff on pleasing men hit the wrong note for some women," said White, the current editor. "I don't think the feminists recognized that her message was one of empowerment."

At the beginning, many certainly didn't. There was a sit-in at her office a few years after she took over. Kate Millet, who took part, said of the magazine: "The entire message seemed to be `Seduce your boss, then marry him.'"

Indeed, Brown championed office sex. "I've never worked anywhere without being sexually involved with somebody in the office," she told New York magazine in 1982. Asked whether that included the boss, she said, "Why discriminate against him?"

Another early critic was feminist writer Betty Friedan, who dismissed the magazine as "immature teenage-level sexual fantasy" but later changed her tune and said Brown, "in her editorship, has been a rather spirited and gutsy example in the revolution of women."

Indeed, some say today that Brown was the essence of a feminist. Fuller, who now edits Hollywood Life, is one: "She let women know they could have satisfaction in their lives."

NBC calls London Olympics 'most-watched' TV event

NEW YORK (AP)—NBCUniversal is calling the London Olympics "the most-watched television event in U.S. history."

Citing Nielsen Co. ratings figures, the company said Monday that more than 219 million viewers watched the Summer Games on NBC and numerous sister networks. This figure surpasses the 215 million who watched the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The company said NBC averaged a prime-time audience of 31 million, topping Summer Games viewerships in Beijing and in Athens in 2004.

Sunday's closing ceremony was seen by 31 million viewers.

Covering its 13th Olympics, NBCUniversal presented 5,535 hours of coverage across its TV and online channels.

Police: MMA fighter found naked in Calif. church

MISSION VIEJO, Calif. (AP)—Mixed martial arts fighter and reality show host Jason "Mayhem" Miller was in jail on suspicion of burglary Monday night after deputies responding to reports of a break-in said they found him naked inside a Southern California church.

Miller was being held on $20,000 bail and was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday, Orange County jail records showed.

The pastor at Mission Hills Church in Mission Viejo called authorities when he found evidence of a break-in Monday morning, including books and CDs that were strewn about, white powder on the floors and missing boards from a previously broken window, sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said.

Deputies arrived and said they found Miller naked on a couch.

"When they asked him his name he responded, `Mayhem,' " Amormino told the Orange County Register.

They also found evidence that Miller had set off fire extinguishers inside the church, Amormino said. Miller was coherent and cooperated with authorities as he was arrested.

Deputies did not know if Miller had hired an attorney, and phone listings for Miller or a representative could not be found. A message left on his official Facebook page was not immediately returned.

Miller, a popular professional middleweight in the mixed martial arts world, has fought for several organizations including UFC, but has lost three of eight fights.

He also hosted the MTV show "Bully Beatdown," a reality show where bullies are challenged to take on professional MMA fighters for a chance to win money.

Before his last fight on May 27, Miller said he would retire if he was defeated, and went on to lose a lackluster decision to C.B. Dollaway

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of
Marian "Erang" Saflan Santos
We, the family, humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.
Daily Mass of intention is being offered every evening at St. Jude Parish at 6:00pm.
On the final day, Saturday, August 18, 2012, Mass will be said at 7:00am.
Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Ginen I Familia

Gabby Douglas is golden in 'Tonight' appearance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Olympic champion Gabby Douglas basked in the "Tonight" spotlight and the admiration of fellow guest Michelle Obama, but the teenager already is thinking ahead to 2016.

Host Jay Leno, who noted that Douglas' last name was an anagram for "USA gold," asked Monday if the gymnast intended to compete in the next Summer Games, in Rio de Janeiro.

"Oh, definitely," she replied, reaffirming previous statements.

The 16-year-old looked like a winner, dressed in a gold metallic skirt and a fitted, black motorcycle jacket. Her hair, worn in a utilitarian bun during the Olympics, was gathered in a chic ponytail.

Her best accessory were the two gold medals she carried onstage, handing one to Leno and the other to Mrs. Obama for closer inspection.

"I don't even deserve to hold this," Leno said later as he returned it.

Douglas became the third consecutive U.S. athlete and first African-American to win the all-around title. She and her teammates gave the U.S. its first Olympic title in women's gymnastics since 1996.

Leno asked Douglas about meeting Prince William's wife, who offered her congratulations to the team, including Aly Raisman.

AP

This Monday, Aug. 13, 2012 photo released by NBC shows first lady Michelle Obama, left, olympic gold medalist Gabby Douglas and host Jay Leno during a taping of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," in Burbank, Calif.

"It was definitely an exciting experience. ... Aly told her she liked her fashion, and she was like, `Well, I love your leos (leotards),'" Douglas said.

She admitted indulging in post-Olympics fast food to the wrong person: healthy eating advocate Mrs. Obama, who teased the champion.

"You're setting me back, Gabby," Obama told her.

"Sorry!" replied the athlete, who confessed to chowing down on a McDonalds' breakfast sandwich to celebrate her victories.

But she impressed Mrs. Obama and Leno with a detailed description of how, starting at age 6, she learned to navigate the 4-inch-wide balance beam.

The host wanted to know if the dream of winning matched the reality.

"I think it's very different, and when I mean `different,' it's in a better way," Douglas replied. "I mean, I never thought I would be doing the show with the first lady, or even you, Jay."

Leno started to reply, when Mrs. Obama jumped in.

"Even you too, Jay!" she said.

On another sports-related topic, Leno put the first lady on the spot about what he called "this whole kiss cam thing" at a recent basketball game.

Last month, she and President Barack Obama were at a U.S. Olympic men's basketball team exhibition game in Washington when the arena's "Kiss Cam" panned to them. She appeared to shake her head "no" to a smooch.

That's not what happened, Michelle Obama told Leno.

"I had just walked in and sat down, and I just saw my face on the Jumbotron. And I'm still a little embarrassed. ... I didn't see the `kiss cam' part," she said.

After the couple was booed, daughter Malia set them straight.

"She was just disgusted with us," Obama recounted. "She said, `Why didn't you kiss?'"

The 13-year-old quickly proved her skills as a problem-solver.

"I've arranged for you to get another chance on the kiss cam," she told her parents, according to the first lady. The president delivered, giving the first lady a big kiss on the lips and adding a peck on the forehead for good measure.

Then Leno turned serious, asking Obama what she's proudest of in her husband's first term.

"Truly, health reform," including protection for those with pre-existing conditions," she said.

F-bomb makes it into mainstream dictionary

NEW YORK (AP)—It's about freakin' time.

The term "F-bomb" surfaced in newspapers more than 20 years ago but will land Tuesday for the first time in the mainstream Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, along with sexting, flexitarian, obesogenic, energy drink and life coach.

In all, the company picks about 100 additions for the 114-year-old dictionary's annual update, gathering evidence of usage over several years in everything from media to the labels of beer bottles and boxes of frozen food.

So who's responsible for lobbing F-bomb far and wide? Kory Stamper, an associate editor for Merriam-Webster, said she and her fellow word spies at the Massachusetts company traced it back to 1988, in a Newsday story that had the now-dead Mets catcher Gary Carter talking about how he had given them up, along with other profanities.

But the word didn't really take off until the late `90s, after Bobby Knight went heavy on the F-bombs during a locker room tirade.

"We saw another huge spike after Dick Cheney dropped an F-bomb in the Senate in 2004," and again in 2010 when Vice President Joe Biden did the same thing in the same place, Stamper said.

"It's a word that is very visually evocative. It's not just the F-word. It's F-bomb. You know that it's going to cause a lot of consternation and possible damage," she said.

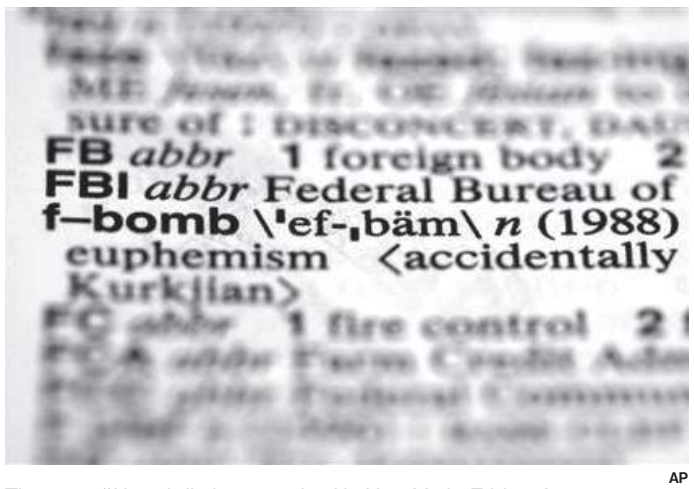
Many online dictionary and reference sites already list F-bomb and other entries Merriam-Webster is only now putting into print. A competitor, Oxford University Press, has F-bomb under consideration for a future update of its New Oxford American Dictionary but beat Merriam-Webster to print on a couple of other newcomers: mash-up, added to the Oxford book in 2005, and cloud computing, included in 2010.

No worries, Stamper said. The dictionary biz isn't a race.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate gets a cover-to-cover overhaul every decade or so in addition to yearly upgrades. The Springfield, Mass.-based company also picks a defining word of each year closer to Thanksgiving. Among the company's other additions this year, including online at Merriam-Webster.com, and various apps:

The Oprah-inspired "aha moment," the Stephen King-popularized earworm, as in that truly torturous tune you can't get out of your head, and man cave, brain cramp and bucket list.

King, in a 2009 column for Entertainment Weekly headlined "The Trouble With Earworms," wrote of waking up in the middle of the night for a glass of water when he found himself singing a snippet of a lyric.



AP

The entry "f-bomb," photographed in New York, Friday, Aug. 10, 2012, is one of the 15 new additions in the 11th edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.

"My friend the Longhair says that's what you call songs that burrow into your head and commence chewing your brains. The dreaded earworm can turn even a great song into something you'd run from, screaming at the top of your lungs. If only you could," he wrote.

Stamper said the word, a translation of the German ohrwurm, surfaced in English in the late `80s as a way to describe untranslatable words. As a tune that won't leave your head, "It just solidified itself in the national linguistic consciousness in America," she said.

Earworm isn't actually a new word for Merriam-Webster but the definition is to differentiate from the once-sole description of a specific blight on ears of corn.

The first reference found by Merriam-Webster for "aha moment" dates to 1939 in a book of psychology. Its use was sporadic until the `90s, when Oprah Winfrey began using it on her no-longer-on-the-air TV show.

"In fact, aha moment is so closely associated with Oprah that in 2009, she and Mutual of Omaha got involved in a legal imbroglio over Mutual of Omaha's use of the phrase, with Oprah claiming that aha moment was her catchphrase and she had the rights to it," Stamper said.

The case was settled out of court in 2009.

The word "tweet" led last year's new-word highlights from Merriam-Webster. This year's additions are more eclectic, Stamper said.

"This is a list of really descriptive and evocative, fun words. Some years, not so fun. Some years it's a lot of science words. Some years it's a lot of words around really heavy topics," she said.

There are a few of those this time around: copernicium among them.

It's a short-lived, artifically produced radioactive element that has 112 protons and is the most recent addition to the Periodic Table of Elements. It was first created in a German lab in 1996 and named for the astronomer Copernicus.

The recession blues are represented.

Merriam-Webster added "systemic risk" and a new definition for "underwater," to describe the heartbreaking realization that you owe more on your mortgage than your property is worth. Among other new economic terms is an extra definition for "toxic," as it relates to an "asset that has lost so much value that it cannot be sold on the market."

Flexitarian, traced to 1998, is defined as "one whose normally meatless diet occasionally includes meat or fish," while obesogenic (dating to 1986) is an adjective for "promoting excessive weight gain: producing obesity."

Stamper calls flexitarian one in a long line of "you are what you eat" entries.

"As our society has become more aware of our eating patterns, we've seen a proliferation of its use," she said. "There are people who object to the very idea of being a flexitarian, and therefore to the existence of the word."

Obesogenic remains a term more restricted to technical writing, Stamper said. It refers to an environment where something or some pattern - food deserts in a city, for example - is suspected of putting people at risk for obesity.

"Over the last few years, it's showed up quite a bit in more general sources, like The New York Times," she said.

Merriam-Webster leads the dictionary market, said John Morse, president of the privately held company who wouldn't release sales figures. He also wouldn't release a full list of new entries, in part to put off competitors.

"Let them find their own new words," he joked. "It's not a cutthroat business but we like to say it's a bare knuckles business." Morse did acknowledge: "It's harder for some paper dictionaries to stay in business in the era of online dictionaries."

New 'Bourne' lands at No. 1 with $38.1M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Bourne Legacy" has unleashed a new box-office hero.

The film, with Jeremy Renner taking over from Matt Damon in the reborn franchise, opened as the No. 1 weekend draw with $38.1 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1 "The Bourne Legacy," Universal, $38,142,825, 3,745 locations, $10,185 average, $38,142,825, one week.

2 "The Campaign," Warner Bros., $26,588,460, 3,205 locations, $8,296 average, $26,588,216, one week.

3 "The Dark Knight Rises," Warner Bros., $18,979,397, 3,690 locations, $5,143 average, $389,588,216, four weeks.

4 "Hope Springs," Sony, $14,650,121, 2,361 locations, $6,205 average, $19,103,178, one week.

AP

Actor Jeremy Renner poses for a photo as he walks the red carpet for the premiere of "The Bourne Legacy" in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012. (

5 "Total Recall," Sony, $8,013,040, 3,601 locations, $2,225 average, $44,101,432, two weeks.

6 "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days," Fox, $8,002,133, 3,401 locations, $2,353 average, $30,356,174, two weeks.

7 "Ice Age: Continental Drift," Fox, $6,380,929, 3,103 locations, $2,056 average, $143,694,981, five weeks.

8 "Ted," Universal, $3,223,675, 2,208 locations, $1,460 average, $209,848,585, seven weeks.

9 "Step Up: Revolution," Lionsgate, $2,941,818, 1,898 locations, $1,550 average, $30,256,580, three weeks.

10 "The Watch," Fox, $2,221,451, 2,463 locations, $902 average, $31,396,079, three weeks.

11 "The Amazing Spider Man," Sony, $2,121,235, 1,585 locations, $1,338 average, $255,464,677, six weeks.

12 "Brave," Disney, $1,802,665, 1,259 locations, $1,432 average, $227,245,531, eight weeks.

13 "Nitro Circus: The Movie," Arc Entertainment, $1,183,701, 800 locations, $1,480 average, $2,166,159, one week.

14 "Beasts of the Southern Wild," Fox Searchlight, $722,883, 286 locations, $2,528 average, $7,160,156, seven weeks.

15 "Moonrise Kingdom," Focus Features, $614,394, 447 locations, $1,374 average, $42,074,792, 12 weeks.

16 "Men in Black 3," Sony, $508,001, 295 locations, $1,722 average, $177,549,434, 12 weeks.

17 "Ruby Sparks," Fox Searchlight, $443,102, 261 locations, $1,698 average, $1,240,600, three weeks.

18 "Magic Mike," Warner Bros., $422,331, 450 locations, $939 average, $112,238,949, seven weeks.

19 "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," Paramount, $421,435, 306 locations, $1,377 average, $211,686,199, 10 weeks.

20 "To Rome with Love," Sony Pictures Classics, $418,752, 264 locations, $1,586 average, $15,089,051, eight weeks.

Kenny G files for divorce after 20-year marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kenny G is playing the final note on his marriage after 20 years.

Court records show the musician filed for divorce Thursday in Los Angeles, citing irreconcilable differences.

The 56-year-old married Balynda Helene Benson-Gorelick in April 1992 and the former couple has a 14-year-old son. He is seeking joint custody but does not want to pay his estranged wife spousal support.

Benson-Gorelick filed for separation in January, but the case has not proceeded.

The divorce was first reported Monday by celebrity website TMZ. Kenny G won a Grammy Award for 1993's "Forever in Love."

AP

In this May 14, 2010 file photo, Kenny G, smooth jazz saxophonist, performs during a media event announcing his concert, in Taipei, Taiwan.

Taylor Swift releasing new album 'Red' on Oct. 22

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Multi-platinum superstar Taylor Swift is releasing her fourth studio album called "Red" on Oct. 22.

She announced the upcoming worldwide release during a live web chat from Nashville, Tenn., on Monday before a living room full of fans. She said she named it "Red" because of all the different emotions she explores on the album.

"They're all pretty much about the kind of tumultuous, crazy, insane, intense, semi-toxic relationships that I've experienced in the last two years," she said of the album, which was two years in the making.

"All those emotions spanning from intense love, intense frustration, jealousy, confusion, all of that, in my mind all those emotions are red. There's nothing in between. There's nothing beige about any of those feelings," she added.

AP

In this March 2, 2012 file photo, Taylor Swift performs on stage at the Burswood Dome during the opening night of her "Speak Now" Australian tour in Perth, Australia.

The album will have 16 songs, including the title track. It also features collaborations with other artists, producers and songwriters, unlike 2010"s "Speak Now" album written entirely on her own.

Swift confirmed that there is a duet with British singer Ed Sheeran on the album and revealed that they wrote it while sitting on a trampoline.

Wearing a red and white striped dress, red earrings and red lipstick, the Grammy-winning singer took questions from the live audience and online. Fans joined in from places such as New York, Alabama, Ohio, Sweden, Brazil and England, and Montreal, Canada.

Swift played the first single from the album during the web chat. It's called "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." She sarcastically described it as "really touching and sensitive," saying "it's a really romantic song that's to my lovely ex-boyfriend." As the tune played over a speaker, she chair-danced and mouthed the words along with her fans. The song is available now at iTunes and can be downloaded at all digital outlets starting Tuesday.

Swift says she has spent the past few months working on a follow-up to her incredibly successful "Speak Now World Tour" that sold out stadiums and arenas in 19 countries. She plans to release those details at a later date.

Her last album, "Speak Now," sold more than 1 million copies in its first week out. She has sold more than 22 million albums and 50 million singles throughout her career. Swift is known for hits including "You Belong With Me" and "Love Story."

Girl abused by grandfather is reluctant to open up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My grandfather recently went to jail for having child pornography on his laptop. The lawyers and everyone else say he molested me and my sister. I almost had to testify.

I'm only 13 and have talked with people, but they don't get it. I don't want to talk to a therapist or anything, but my mom and aunt think I should.

Should I? I feel really sad right now. I first learned about this two years ago, but it still hurts. I kind of feel uncomfortable talking about it to people other than my best friends. I write sad poetry to express my feelings and it helps some.

I don't know what to do. It's like I'm stuck in a rut. What should I be feeling? Do I need to talk to someone? Should I open up more?

UNSURE OF MY FEELINGS

DEAR UNSURE: If your grandfather is in jail, and "the lawyers and everyone else" say he molested you and your sister, then he probably did. The two of you may not have understood what was happening because he led you to believe what he was doing was normal behavior. (This is standard operating procedure for a molester.)

Part of the reason for your sadness may be that your trust was violated. Talking to a therapist is not a punishment. It's actually a privilege, and I hope that you and your sister will take advantage of it. A therapist can give you more insight than your friends can give you.

Your mom and your aunt have your best interests at heart, so please listen to them. A therapist can help you open up more, and your sadness will dissipate.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I love my wife very much, but over the years we have drifted apart. At one time we considered separating, but we went to a marriage counselor and worked most things out.

My wife is the only woman in the world for me, but my feelings are at the bottom of her priorities. I give her nightly foot massages and tell her how much she means to me. She never returns any pleasures. She has told me that sex is not enjoyable for her and she does it only to please me.

I love her dearly, however the romance is gone. Is it possible to rekindle the long-lost fire?

LONELY, UNIMPORTANT HUSBAND IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR LONELY: I hate to appear negative, but the way you have described your marriage, I doubt it. I also have to question why you think a woman who is so withholding is the only woman in the world for you. You have described what she is getting from you, but what are you receiving in return besides passive rejection?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am torn between two decisions. I am a 40-year-old teacher, but I have always wanted to be in law enforcement. I didn't pursue my dream because my fiancee would not marry me if I went into police work.

I have done well over the years, but my heart will not let go of being in law enforcement. My wife gives me the "you have a good job and you need to save for your kids" speech. I feel if I don't at least try to pursue my dream it will always bug me.

Should I suck it up, do my time and be unfulfilled for the next 10 years? I feel like the old "you can be whatever you want to be" speech is an injustice to children if you as a parent can't live up to this rule. What do you think about all this?

LIVING A LIE IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR LIVING A LIE: I think that at age 40 you should be allowed to do what you want with your life. HOWEVER, if you decide to pursue police work, you should make certain your family will be well-provided-for in case something happens to you in your high-risk new career.

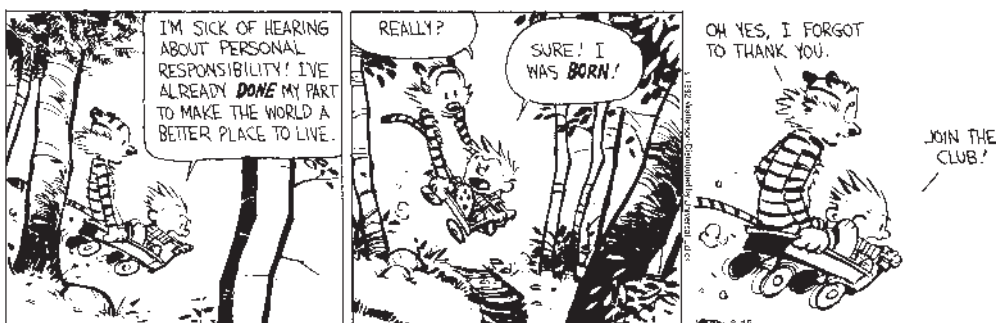
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby —Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

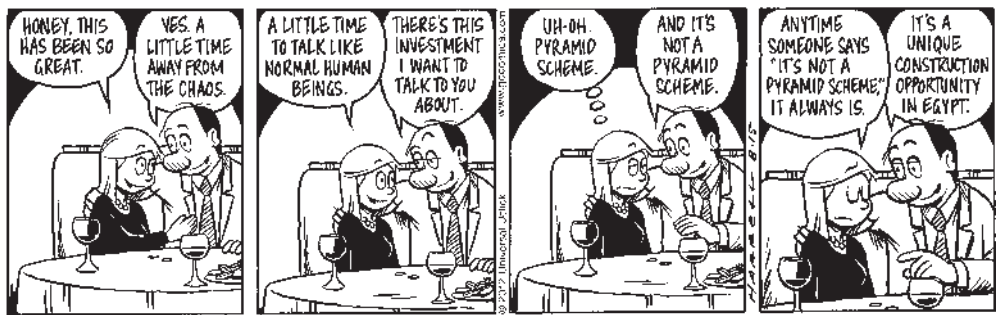

I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY! I'VE ALREADY DONE MY PART TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.
REALLY?
SURE! I WAS BORN!
OH YES, I FORGOT TO THANK YOU.
JOIN THE CLUB!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HONEY, THIS HAS BEEN SO GREAT.
YES. A LITTLE TIME AWAY FROM THE CHAOS.
A LITTLE TIME TO TALK LIKE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS.
THERE'S THIS INVESTMENT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
UH-OH. PYRAMID SCHEME.
AND IT'S NOT A PYRAMID SCHEME.
ANYTIME SOMEONE SAYS "IT'S NOT A PYRAMID SCHEME," IT ALWAYS IS.
IT'S A UNIQUE CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITY IN EGYPT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

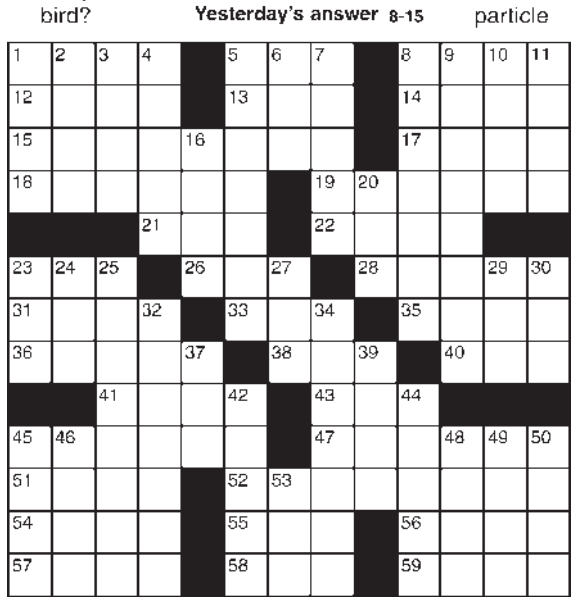
ACROSS
1 Too
5 Legislation
8 Use scissors
12 Picnic hamperer
13 Raw rock
14 Mexican entree
15 Water
17 Microwave
18 Classify
19 Mock
21 Med. research org.
22 Unescorted
23 $ dispenser
26 Calendar abbr.
28 Once more
31 Child of the streets
33 Name
35 Sicilian spouter
36 Praise highly
38 Conger or moray
40 Early bird?
41 Eye part
43 Deteriorate
45 Official emissary
47 Puts on a pedestal
51 Vacationing
52 Go to court
54 Apportion (out)
55 One of the Stooges
56 Chills and fever
57 Raised
58 Moreover
59 Put into words

DOWN
1 Met melody
2 Rock drummer Ulrich
3 Letter starter of yore
4 Whopper topper
5 Couldn't stand
6 Illustrations
7 Mary-Louise Parker series on Showtime
8 Warehouse's purpose
9 Steer
10 On the rocks
11 Corn recipe
16 Puzzle diagram
20 Greek H
23 Shock and —
24 Tariff
25 Ease
27 Prompt
29 Gerund suffix
30 Complain constantly
32 Made an incursion
34 Scolded
37 Eng. class
39 California city
42 Alabama city
44 Frat party garb
45 Mary's follower
46 Basin accessory
48 Indian style of music
49 Needle case
50 Origin
53 Electrical particle

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	M	O	S	■	C	H	O	■	A	C	H	E
P	U	M	A	■	H	O	W	■	F	R	A	T
F	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	■	F	A	I	T
D	E	N	■	I	N	K	■	Z	E	B	R	A
■	■	■	D	N	A	■	B	I	C	■	■	■
O	R	B	I	T	■	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
R	O	A	R	■	D	O	G	■	I	N	T	O
B	E	N	E	L	U	X	■	R	O	A	S	T
■	■	■	C	O	O	■	S	O	N	■	■	■
P	A	S	T	Y	■	A	P	T	■	S	P	A
U	G	L	I	■	E	J	E	C	I	O	N	■
S	H	O	O	■	L	A	C	■	O	G	L	E
H	A	W	N	■	M	R	S	■	I	H	A	W

Yesterday's answer 8-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Lawrence, 22; Joe Jonas, 23; Carl Edwards, 33; Ben Affleck, 40.

Happy Birthday: Don't limit what you can do. Taking the path of least resistance will allow you to accomplish far more. Arguing or fighting an impossible battle will not help you move forward. Focus on the positive and what you can do to turn your dreams into a reality. Make every moment count. Your numbers are 4, 7, 12, 23, 25, 37, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Socialize with friends. Discuss important issues with family, but don't make impulsive changes or promise the impossible. Greater security will develop if you nurture a meaningful relationship. Professional opportunities are heading your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stick to basics and refrain from putting pressure on others. Work diligently to find solutions to pending problems. An emotional issue will be fueled by an inability to compromise. Show how much you care and you'll get a much better response. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Stick to your plans until you finish what you began. It's your ability to follow through that will make the biggest impression. Someone is waiting for you to make a mistake. Don't make an erratic decision because you feel pressured. Trust your judgment. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It will be difficult to hide a secret. Use your wit and creativity to sidestep a sticky situation that has the potential to make you or someone you care about look bad. Truth will be important, but don't offer information freely. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Recognize what you have to offer and how you can change your life. Taking a creative approach to the way you do things or finding other outlets for your skills and talents will lead to increased popularity and cash. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Sincerity is a must. Not everyone will buy into what you have to offer. Consistency will be important if you want to attract the right help and support. Concentrate on what you can do for others, not what they can do for you. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't settle for less when you want more. It never hurts to ask, as long as you have a backup plan or something you can offer in return. Don't let a relationship problem interfere with what you need to accomplish. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let your actions speak for you. Love is highlighted, and being romantic will help you win favors and attract greater interest from your partner, or someone new if you are single. An unusual approach to life will add to your appeal. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Sign contracts, agree to a settlement or collect a debt and you can add to your financial intake. A trip will pay off if you get to address important issues concerning your future with someone who can influence what unfolds. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't fold under pressure. Take on only the responsibilities you know you can handle. Doing a good job is more important than trying to impress someone by promising more than you can deliver. Stick to basics. Leave time for romance. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look, see and do. Nothing is too difficult if you are adamant about finishing what you start. Someone who supports your concerns will bring a broader view to your attention. A change in your professional position will pan out. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Time spent at home or nurturing personal relationships will pay off. Fixing up your surroundings will add to your comfort and confidence. Set aside a space that is conducive to expanding your creative ideas. Follow your intuition. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable and unique. You possess strength and courage.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	9					
				2				
		5	8	7	6	4		
	8			5			9	
3								4
2								3
1								9
	7			8			6	
		4	7		1	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	8	2	7	4	3	1	6
6	3	2	9	1	5	4	8	7
4	7	1	3	6	8	2	5	9
2	4	3	7	5	6	8	9	1
9	8	5	1	2	3	7	6	4
7	1	6	4	8	9	5	3	2
3	6	7	8	9	2	1	4	5
1	5	4	6	3	7	9	2	8
8	2	9	5	4	1	6	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ARTHUR BRYANT'S BBQ Solution: 10 letters

A	T	B	R	B	E	E	F	K	Y	K	C	I	T	S
U	R	U	I	B	U	L	L	R	U	B	S	A	T	N
T	A	T	C	N	A	R	O	T	G	L	A	Z	E	D
H	D	T	H	V	V	K	N	T	T	E	N	D	E	R
E	I	E	O	U	C	E	E	T	A	O	S	K	W	A
N	T	R	C	I	R	E	N	D	E	M	B	A	S	T
T	I	Y	H	Ⓣ	I	B	E	T	S	N	O	E	L	S
I	O	T	I	Ⓐ	B	L	R	R	O	P	D	T	O	U
C	N	I	C	Ⓔ	S	L	E	Y	F	R	I	S	P	M
H	K	C	K	Ⓗ	N	P	E	D	A	T	A	C	P	B
A	Y	I	E	A	S	N	A	N	C	N	A	G	Y	R
R	R	R	N	A	E	L	E	R	D	I	T	F	U	U
L	N	T	R	G	M	I	X	Y	T	E	C	U	A	S
I	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B	A	Y	E	N	O	H
E	H	S	I	F	P	U	O	S	E	C	I	P	S	Y

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Yesterday's Answer: Elizabeth

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: A break in the clouds

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Swisher's slam helps Yankees beat Rangers

NEW YORK (AP)—Derek Lowe was being given a tour of the Yankees' facilities and changing at a locker without a nameplate Monday afternoon. David Phelps had little more than a day to prepare for a spot start in place of ace CC Sabathia.

No matter. The unlikely duo combined to shut down the potent Texas Rangers.

Phelps pitched a career-high five innings and picked off two runners, and Lowe completed New York's 8-2 victory on Monday night with four shutout innings in his Yankees debut.

''To have those two guys step up to do what they did today, to give those guys like D-Rob (David Robertson) and (Rafael) Soriano a full day off and not have to warm up and anything that's big," said Nick Swisher, who hit a grand slam off Ryan Dempster and drove in five runs.

In the opener of a four-game series between the teams with the AL's best records, the Yankees powered their way to a sixth straight victory over Texas in the Bronx.

Swisher's second slam this season was his 200th career homer. Eric Chavez also homered off Dempster (1-1), the Rangers' recent acquisition. Ichiro Suzuki tripled and Derek Jeter followed with a long RBI double in the seventh to end Dempster's third start for Texas.

Dempster matched a season high by allowing eight runs. The other time he allowed eight was in his first start for Texas on Aug. 2. In three starts since coming from the Chicago Cubs in a trade-deadline deal, Dempster has allowed 19 runs—16 earned - in 17 1-3 innings.

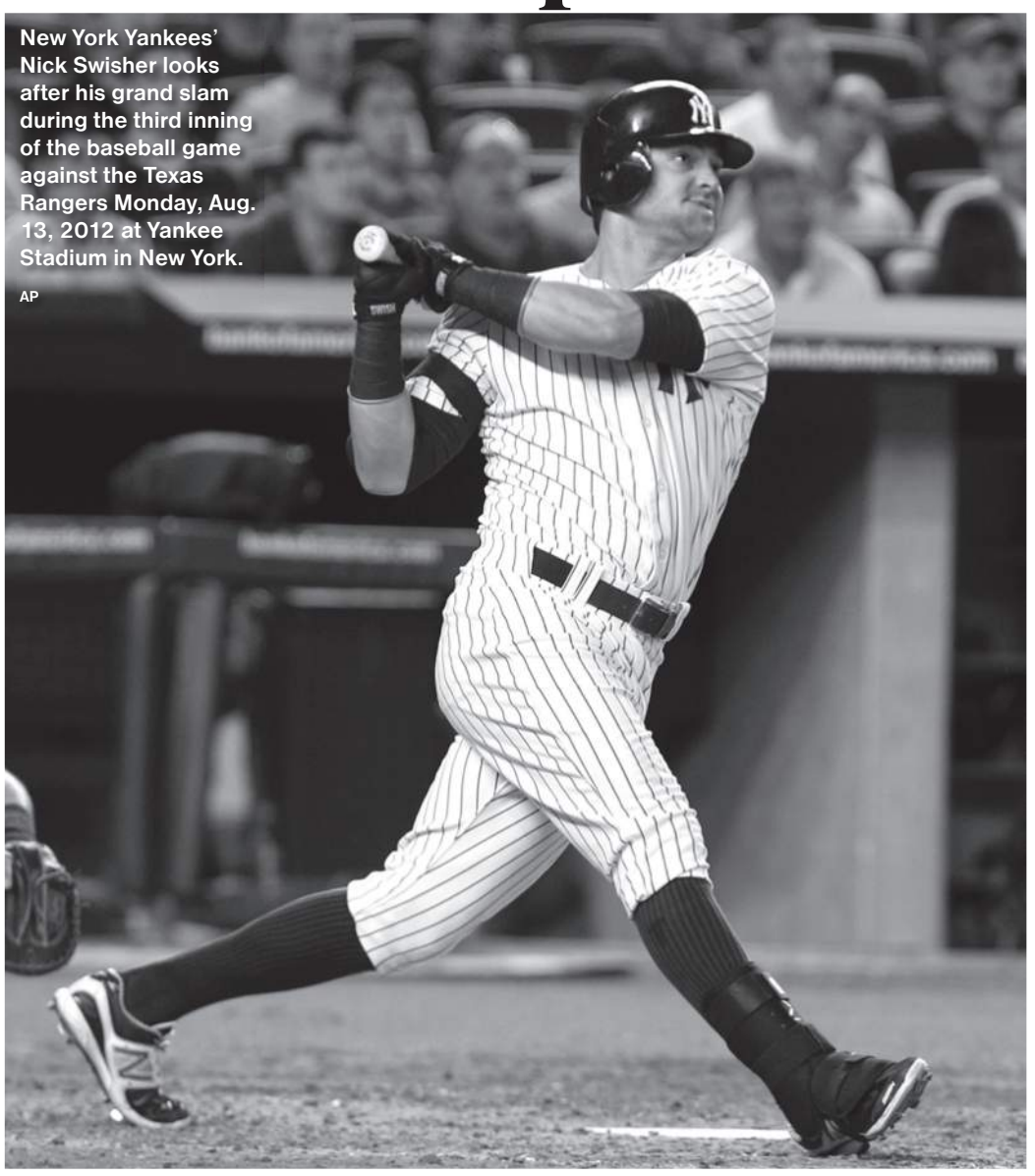
''Too much is made of that," Dempster said of switching leagues. ''I know how to make pitches. When you're facing lineups and you don't get that break at the bottom of the lineup where you have the pitcher hitting, and you always have a hitter, every pitch is really, really valuable and it just comes down to executing one pitch at a time. Simple plan. Nothing more and nothing less than that. And tonight, I paid for my mistakes."

Swisher added an RBI single in the seventh as New York won for the fifth time in six games.

Phelps (3-3) was being held to a 75-80 pitch limit. Phelps needed 26 pitches in the first without being hit hard. But thanks in part to a nifty pickoff move, he fulfilled his manager's wish to make it through five innings.

''I really wanted to get him through the fifth inning. I thought it was important for him," Joe Girardi said. ''It's important for us, too."

Phelps turned over a 5-2 lead to Lowe in the sixth. Designated for assignment by Cleveland on Aug. 2 and released Friday, Lowe signed with New York earlier Monday and made his first appearance since July 31.



New York Yankees' Nick Swisher looks after his grand slam during the third inning of the baseball game against the Texas Rangers Monday, Aug. 13, 2012 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

AP

Blue Jays 3, White Sox 2, 11 innings

In Toronto, David Cooper singled home the winning run in the 11th inning as Toronto beat Chicago.

In the 11th, Leyson Septimo (0-2) came on to pitch with one out and walked Kelly Johnson on four pitches, After another change on the mound, Edwin Encarnacion singled to move Johnson to third. Cooper followed with a liner that bounced just in front of the onrushing right fielder, scoring Johnson easily.

Toronto's Steve Delabar (3-1) struck out six batters in two innings to earn the win.

Indians 6, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Justin Masterson pitched shutout ball into the seventh inning and the Cleveland Indians bounced back from their most lopsided loss of the season to beat the sputtering Los Angeles Angels, 6-2, in the opener of a 10-game road trip.

Brent Lillibridge homered off All-Star lefty C.J. Wilson (9-9), who dropped his fifth straight decision.

Albert Pujols hit his 25th homer for Los Angeles.

Twins 9, Tigers 3

In Minneapolis, Darin Mastroianni and Ryan Doumit both homered and drove in three runs as Minnesota beat Detroit.

Doumit broke it open with a three-run homer that made it 8-1 in the seventh.

Twins starter Samuel Deduno (4-0) baffled struggling Detroit for seven innings, striking out six and remaining undefeated in seven career starts.

Tigers starter Anibal Sanchez (1-3) was hit in the knee by a grounder in the first, but stayed in the game.

Rays 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, B.J. Upton hit a two-run homer and Alex Cobb pitched seven strong innings to help the Tampa Bay Rays to their season-high seventh consecutive win, 4-1 over the Seattle Mariners.

Cobb (7-8) allowed a run and four hits. He struck out five and walked two in his fourth consecutive quality start and third consecutive win. His ERA is 1.93 over his last four outings.

Fernando Rodney record his major league-leading 37th save in 38 tries by pitching a scoreless ninth that extended his club record to 22 consecutive saves.

Dodgers 5, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Los Angeles' Shane Victorino hit his 10th homer of the season and drove in three runs to lift the Dodgers to a 5-4 win over the Pittsburgh Pirates in the National League on Monday.

Victorino, acquired in a trade from Philadelphia two weeks ago, hit his first homer with the Dodgers in the fifth inning. The two-run shot off Jeff Karstens (4-3) broke a 2-2 tie and helped Los Angeles beat the Pirates for the seventh straight time.

The Dodgers moved within 1_ games of the Pirates for one of the two National League wild card spots.

Padres 4, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Eric Stults was commanding on the mound, steering San Diego to victory over Atlanta.

Stults (3-2) gave up one run in 7 2-3 innings — his longest start in three years.

Chase Headley homered and drove in two runs for the Padres.

Atlanta starter Mike Minor (6-9) gave up nine hits in six innings

Phillies 4, Marlins 0

In Miami, Cole Hamels pitched his second consecutive shutout for Philadelphia in a win over Miami.

Hamels, coming off a five-hitter against Atlanta last Tuesday, struck out five in his sixth career shutout and 12th complete game. He walked just one and threw 85 of 113 pitches for strikes.

Juan Pierre had three hits for the Phillies, who had lost their previous five against the Marlins.

Miami's Nathan Eovaldi (3-8) allowed eight hits in five innings.

Rockies 9, Brewers 6

In Denver, D.J. LeMahieu had a career-best four hits in Colorado's win over Milwaukee.

The Rockies had 15 hits. Every position player for the Rockies had at least one hit as they ended a four-game home losing streak.

Milwaukee starter Mike Fiers (6-5) came into the game 2-0 with a 1.93 ERA in August but was hit hard early. He allowed eight runs in less than three innings.

Colorado starter Jeff Francis (4-4) allowed six hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Cubs 7, Astros 1

In Chicago, Jeff Samardzija (8-10) struck out a career high-tying 11 and allowed just one run in seven innings as Chicago beat Houston.

Darwin Barney and Alfonso Soriano hit two-run homers, and Anthony Rizzo had four hits for the Cubs, who had their smallest home crowd of the season in a matchup of two struggling teams.

The Astros have lost 25 of its last 27 road games and the worst record in the majors.

Houston starter Armando Galarraga (1-2) was tagged for five runs.

Nationals 14, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Kurt Suzuki drove in four runs, Danny Espinosa and Roger Bernadina each knocked in three and the Washington Nationals routed the San Francisco Giants 14-2 Monday night in a matchup of NL division leaders.

Gio Gonzalez (15-6) tied a Nationals record for wins in a season, boosted by Washington's highest-scoring game of the season.

The Nationals led 14-0 in the fifth inning and won for the 11th time in 13 games. They are 7-1 on this road trip.

Johnny Pesky, beloved by Red Sox fans, dies at 92

BOSTON (AP)—Adored by generations of Red Sox fans, Johnny Pesky was so much a part of Boston baseball that the right-field foul pole at Fenway Park was named for him.

Pesky, who played, managed and served as a broadcaster for the Red Sox in a baseball career that lasted more than 60 years, died Monday. He was 92.

"The national pastime has lost one of its greatest ambassadors," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said. "Johnny Pesky, who led a great American life, was an embodiment of loyalty and goodwill for the Boston Red Sox and all of Major League Baseball."

Pesky died just more than a week after his final visit to Fenway, on Aug. 5 when Boston beat the Minnesota Twins 6-4.

Yet for many in the legion of Red Sox fans, their last image of Pesky will be from the 100th anniversary of Fenway Park on April 20, when the man known for his warmth, kindness and outstanding baseball career was moved to tears at a pregame ceremony. By then the former shortstop was in a wheelchair positioned at second base, surrounded by dozens of admiring former players and a cheering crowd.

"I feel like part of the Red Sox tradition just died because when I think of Johnny I think of him hitting fungos at spring training. We will all miss him so much," ex-pitcher Pedro Martinez said in comments provided by the Red Sox. "He was such a representative of everything that happened in Boston. It's hard to think of the success, defeat, and all we went through without Johnny. You couldn't do anything without Johnny Pesky."

It was at another ceremony less than six years earlier that Pesky's name was officially inscribed in the rich history of the Red Sox and their home, a fitting tribute to a career .307 hitter and longtime teammate and friend of Ted Williams.

On his 87th birthday, Sept. 27, 2006, a plaque was unveiled at the base of the foul pole just 302 feet from home plate, designating it "Pesky's Pole."

The term was coined by former Red Sox pitcher Mel Parnell, who during a broadcast in the 1950s recalled Pesky winning a game for him with a home run around the pole. From there, a legend seemed to grow that Pesky frequently curled shots that way—actually, only six of his 17 career home runs came at Fenway.

In fact, team records show that Pesky never hit a home run at Fenway in which Parnell was the winning pitcher. Still, Pesky's spot in the hearts of Red Sox players and fans alike is indisputable.

"This is a very sad day for me and for anyone who has ever spent any time with Mr. Pesky. He was the most positive influence I ever came across who wore the Red Sox uniform," said Jason Varitek, the team's former captain.

"He was always there through the good and bad times with the same smile and passion for his team. `Hello my honeysuckle, hello my honey bee, my ever lovin' Jason just got three,' Johnny used to say, wishing me three hits that night."

Even though Pesky was a fan favorite, he still had his own place of notoriety in Boston's drought of 86 years without a championship. He was long blamed for holding the ball on a key relay in Game 7 of the 1946 World Series, though it's a place that many now think is undeserved.

"Johnny Pesky will forever be linked to the Boston Red Sox," team president Larry Lucchino said. "He has been as much a part of Fenway Park as his retired Number 6 that rests on the right-field facade, or the foul pole below it that bears his name."

Pesky died at the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers, according to Solimine, Landergan and Richardson funeral home in Lynn. The funeral home did not announce a cause of death.

"I've had an interesting life," Pesky told The Associated Press in 2005. "I have no complaints."

In New York, a moment of silence was held at Yankee Stadium before Monday night's game against the Texas Rangers. The crowd gave a nice round of applause.

Olympic flag arrives in Rio, marking race to 2016

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The Olympic flag touched down on Brazilian soil on Monday, marking the start of four years of preparations ahead of the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes waved the five-ringed flag as he and other top officials disembarked from the flight that brought them back from London, where they attended the games' closing ceremony on Sunday.

Speaking at a packed news conference at Rio's Tom Jobim international airport, Paes called it an "important moment" for Rio and for Brazil at large. He pledged the games will leave a vast legacy for Rio, the beachside metropolis that suffered from decades of neglect after it lost national capital status to Brasilia in 1960.

"I see the arrival of this Olympic flag as not the start, but the consolidation of an important process of transformation for the city of Rio de Janeiro," he said.

"Rio is a city that spent the lion's share of its history, much more time than it should have, looking toward the past. I'm sure that this process of transformation, this turning toward the future, has been consolidated here."

He added the most important effects of the Olympics "are sometimes, many times, the intangible transformations, the impalpable ones related to the brand of a country, the brand of a city, with the self-esteem of a country."

A handful of demonstrators gathered outside the airport to protest against expulsions connected with Olympic projects and others tied to the 2014 soccer World Cup, which Brazil is also hosting.

The Popular Committee for the World Cup and Olympics, which organized the protest, says as many as 170,000 people risk being removed from their homes, or already have been removed, due to projects related to the two mega-events.

The group says some 4,000 people living in the so-called Vila Autodromo, where the Olympic Park is to be constructed, are facing expulsion. Activists have complained of a lack of consultation between the government and the affected communities and also of low compensation paid out to those kicked out of their homes.

Asked about the government's plan was for the residents of Vila Autodromo, Paes responded that nothing would be done without extensive consultations.

"No one is going to throw anyone out of anywhere ... without there being an alternative," he said. "The people will only leave there with lots of consultations, with lots of discussion, with lots of respect."

He added that some of those opposed to the evictions were people "who are always railing against the government. That's why things were paralyzed for so long. They don't want anything to happen here."

The Olympic flag, made out of silk for the 1988 games in Seoul, South Korea, will be temporarily housed in the City Hall and will be open to viewings by visitors.

AP

Rio de Janeiro's Mayor Eduardo Paes, front left, holds up the Olympic flag upon its arrival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Monday, Aug. 13, 2012. The flag's arrival marks the official start of Rio's Olympic preparations, with the city to undertake nearly 200 projects to construct sports venues and other infrastructure during the next four years. At right, front, Carlos Arthur Nuzman, President of the Brazilian Olympic Committee.

Comparisons only natural with McIlroy and Woods

KIAWAH ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—The comparisons are inevitable. The incredible skill, the youth, even the red shirt on Sunday.

Rory McIlroy's dominant performance in winning the PGA Championship this weekend looked a lot like the early days of Tiger Woods.

Woods saw it coming more than three years ago. McIlroy made his professional debut in America at age 19 and reached the quarterfinals of the Match Play Championship. Woods saw how he drove the ball, the putts he made, the efficient short game and the composure.

"He has all of the components to be the best player in the world, there's no doubt," Woods said back in March 2009. "It's just a matter of time and experience, and then basically gaining that experience in big events. Just give him some time, and I'm sure he'll be there."

McIlroy didn't need much time at all.

The 23-year-old golfer from Northern Ireland now has won both his majors, the U.S. Open last year and this weekend's PGA Championship, by eight shots. There have been only five majors won by eight shots or more since 1976 - three by Woods, two by McIlroy.

McIlroy also won his two majors at a slightly younger age than Woods, though that is a little misleading because he turned pro earlier. The PGA Championship was McIlroy's 16th major as a pro. Woods won his second major in his 12th try.

But it was the way McIlroy won at Kiawah Island that allowed for the comparisons. After rain forced play to be suspended Saturday, he returned Sunday morning to finish the third round and built a three-shot lead. He wasted no time, pulling ahead with two early birdies. And on a demanding Ocean Course with enough wind to demand utmost precision, McIlroy played the final 23 holes without a bogey. It was reminiscent of Woods going the last 26 holes without a bogey at Pebble Beach in the 2000 U.S. Open.

"He seems to have that ability that when it's a big tournament, he's right there just waiting to break loose," Davis Love III said Monday. "A lot like Tiger. The bigger the stage, the better he plays."

Does that make McIlroy the next Woods?

Not yet.

Winning the second major was a big deal to McIlroy because so much is expected of him. He was never going to be a one-and-done major champion. The golf world knew that. But his win at Kiawah followed a turbulent season of peaks and valleys. McIlroy held off a furious charge by Woods to win the Honda Classic and go to No. 1 in early March. He went into a funk by missing four cuts in five tournaments, and then he shut up the critics with another dominant display in the final major of the year.

"I was a little frustrated with how I was playing earlier on in the year, but a few people in this room were probably pushing panic buttons for no reason," McIlroy said. "It's just great to be able to put my name on another major championship trophy, and looking forward to April next year and getting a crack at another one."

That would be Augusta National for the Masters.

And next year is when McIlroy will see if he can stack up to the incomparable standard created by Woods.

McIlroy now is halfway home to the Grand Slam. Woods became the fifth player, and the youngest at age 24, to win all four major championships. He won the third leg at the U.S. Open with that 15-shot win at Pebble Beach, and completed the slam with an eight-shot win at St. Andrews in the British Open. Woods didn't stop there. He won the next two majors to become the only player to hold all four professional majors at the same time.

McIlroy is not there yet. Not even close.

"It's tough to say that Rory is a Tiger Woods-type player," Graeme McDowell said. "Tiger Woods is a once-in-a-lifetime type player, and Rory McIlroy is at least a once-in-a-decade type player. He's that good. I've been saying it for years how good he is."

Jack Nicklaus set the standard with 18 majors, which Woods is trying to surpass. Woods remains stuck on 14 majors, and has gone more than four years without one. Nicklaus never had a gap that big, though Nicklaus never had the problems - with injuries or in his personal life - that Woods has had to tackle.

But the measure of Woods is more than just majors.

Woods won 54 times around the world, including 10 majors, before turning 30. McIlroy's win Sunday was the sixth of his career.

"I've won my second major at the same age as he had," McIlroy said. "But he went on that incredible run like 2000, 2001, 2002, and won so many. I'd love to sit up here and tell you that I'm going to do the same thing, but I just don't know. It's been great to win my first major last year and to back that up with another one this year. I can't ask for any more. I just want to keep working hard, keep practicing, and hopefully, there's a few more of these in my closet when my career finishes."

It was Padraig Harrington who suggested it might be McIlroy - not Woods - who might catch Nicklaus. That sounded absurd last year at Congressional when McIlroy set the U.S. Open scoring record on a course that was soft and vulnerable from so much rain.

Kiawah was a strong test. McIlroy made it look easy. Asked to pick one part of his game that could have been better, Boy Wonder leaned into the microphone and said with a smile, "Nothing. It was all good."

Woods used to make it look easy.

Cowboys beat Raiders, 3-0, in exhibition opener

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)— Darren McFadden needed one series to show he's in midseason form for Oakland following a foot injury that cut his last season short.

Most of the rest of the first-team offensive players for the Raiders and Dallas Cowboys need plenty of work to get back to that level.

McFadden picked up where he left off last season by gaining 38 yards on Oakland's first three plays of the exhibition season and the Raiders went on to lose to the Dallas Cowboys 3-0 on Monday night.

McFadden, who missed the last nine games of 2011 with a Lisfranc injury to his right foot, opened the game with a 4-yard run, an 18-yard reception and a 16-yard run to delight of the Raiders fans.

But Carson Palmer threw an interception to Gerald Sensabaugh on the next play for Oakland (tied for No. 23 in the AP Pro32) and both the Raiders and Cowboys (No. 15, AP Pro32) struggled to generate much of anything until the reserves took over in the second half.

Kyle Orton drove Dallas 67 yards on the opening drive of the second half to set up Dan Bailey's 33-yard field goal and that proved to be the only scoring of the night.

McFadden left after that first series and Palmer couldn't move the Raiders without him. Matt Leinart played the rest of a scoreless first half and completed six passes to undrafted free agent Rod Streater but couldn't put any points on the board.

Dez Bryant, who status was in question after leaving practice early Saturday because of hamstring tightness, came up with the only big play for Dallas' first-team offense when he made a good adjustment in the air for a 24-yard gain from Tony Romo on the first offensive drive for the Cowboys.

That was the only first down in three series with Romo under center. Only two of Dallas' other 10 plays with Romo in the game went for more than 1 yard and both of those were on third-and-longs when the Cowboys couldn't convert.

The play was sloppy all around as Dallas twice committed penalties on punts to prolong drives for Oakland and committed another before a botched snap on a field goal try.

The Raiders were unable to make the Cowboys pay for those mistakes as the first drive aided by two fourth-down penalties ended in a punt and usually reliable Sebastian Janikowski was wide right on a 47-yard field goal attempt after the third infraction.

Oakland had its share of mistakes as Chimdi Chekwa let a punt roll to the goal line instead of downing it at the 1 and receiver Jacoby Ford had a rough day all around.

Ford was stopped after a 4-yard return on the opening kickoff, had two passes from Palmer go through his hands, was the target on Palmer's interception and muffed a punt that rolled out of bounds to miss a chance at a return.

Even the replacement officials had their own problems as they spotted one ball outside the hash marks only to have Romo correct them.

Docomo Pacific Golf Classic set for Sept. 1

The Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) is again the beneficiary of the Docomo Pacific Golf Classic that will be held on Sept. 1 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

"It is vital that businesses, both large and small, support MTEC in its mission of developing tourism related programs for our high school students. We must continue to reinforce the importance of our tourism industry to all, most especially the generations that will follow", said Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson.

This is the third time that Docomo Pacific will host the tournament and the responses received from the business community have been great. Major sponsors such as DFS Saipan Ltd, First Hawaiian Bank, Mobil, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and have all stepped forward with their support again this year.

Hole-in-one sponsors Joeten Motors, Bank of Hawaii and Triple J Motors have also lent their invaluable support with fantastic prizes. The Fiesta Resort, Delta Air Lines, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the Pacific Islands Club are back once again as sponsors along with Dickerson & Quinn, Kautz Glass, and DataDot Micronesia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A 2012 Ford Fiesta from Joeten Motors is up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize in the 3rd Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic set for Sept. 1 at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Seen in this photo are, from left, Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson , Docomo Pacific retail operations manager Pauline Johnson, and Joeten Motors general manager Matthew Deets.

"We must continue to do all we can to support non-profit organizations that have a direct impact on tourism and our student community", added Nelson.

This year's entry fee has been lowered to $85 and Docomo Pacific subscribers can enter for only $75. Entry forms are available at the Docomo Pacific store on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Entry fees are accepted at Docomo Pacific. Deadline for submission of entry forms is set for Aug. 30. The weekend event will tee off at 7:30 am.

For more information, contact Nelson at (670)483-4924 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com. ***(PR)***

CACDAC

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the playoff round.

The eventual Class B champion gained an automatic finals berth after topping the six-game qualifying tournament on Aug. 5 with a total of 1,612 pinfalls. Cacdac ended up in first place among 18 players after a strong finish in the qualifier. He knocked down 200-plus pinfalls in the last three games (212, 244, and 212) and adding his 199, 145, and 150 in the first three, Cacdac averaged 193.67 pinfalls.

Cacdac was the lone bowler in Class B to average at least 190 pinfalls and his 244 was the best score in a single game in the entire tournament, besting the 236 (Game 5) of Class A eighth finisher Raymond Angeles.

Eparwa finished second behind Cacdac in the qualifier with the former's six-game total 1,101 pinfalls. Kim and Generoso took the last two qualifying tickets after earning similar 1,079 pinfalls.

With Kim, Generoso, and Eparwa advancing, they played one more game with the former surviving the three-bowler semifinal round to arrange a finals showdown against Cacdac. Kim collected 183 pinfalls in the semis for a 10-pinfall win over Generoso (173). Eparwa was booted out after posting only 171 pinfalls.

The Cacdac-Kim title duel took place last Sunday with the former ending the latter's upset bid with a close 8-pinfall win in Game 1 of the Class B finals.

The Class C finale went to Teodoro's favor, as he convincingly beat female bowler Yho Villavicencio, 164-135. Teodoro marched into the finals after recording a six-game total of 984 pinfalls and ruling the qualifier, which drew more than 20 players, including several female keglers. Rene Cariaso and Villavicencio joined Teodoro in the stepladder finals after placing second and third in the qualifiers with their 969 and 961 pinfalls, respectively.

The third-ranked Villavicencio then pulled off an upset over Cariaso in the semis, 209-167, to set up a title match against Teodoro.

MBI

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the fourth period when only Nate Mateo and Rolly Paraiso made field goals in the payoff canto.

LD Prime 77, Anjie's Boys 71

In the curtain-raiser, LD Prime snapped Anjie's Boys' two-game winning run after eking out the 6-point victory.

Down at the end of the third canto, 59-60, LD Prime got timely baskets from Nat Banatasa, White Capalad, and Sonny Lerio in the fourth quarter to thwart Anjie's Boys. Banatasa scored 6 of his 17 markers in the final frame, while Lerio and Capalad contributed 4 apiece.

Anjie's Boys lost the lead and the game after making only four field goals in the fourth quarter and only Eugene Manglona tallied more than 3 points in the final canto. Anjie's Boys ran out of offensive options, as it gunner Sajh Hossain missed last Monday's match

First Game

LD Prime 77 – Banatasa 17, Lerio 15, Teregeyo 15, Hernaez 13, Capalad 11, Magtuloy 4.

Anjie's Boys 71 – Manglona 18, Tudela 13, Mettao 13, E. Caro 7, Mamaril 6, Malonzo 3, Javier 1.

Scoring by quarters: 25-12, 37-32, 59-60, 77-71.

Second Game

MBI 77 – Galarse 19, David 16, Tenorio 13, Trajano 12, Samson 4, Hernandez 4, Garcia 2, Leong 2.

Hip Hop Thunder 65 – N. Mateo 20, D. Mateo 10, Paraiso 9, Sacramento 8, Lavarias 6, Culala 2, Sablan 2, Anasan 2, Vertudez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-21, 35-34, 58-62, 77-65.

MIEKO

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ginners and more experienced folks, will be swimming because of her," Derickson added.

Other participants in last weekend's clinic were Arielle Buyum, Karen Cornelio, Nancy Gottfried (SSC Masters), Donna White, Kathleen and Emory Frink, and Shelli Neal. Several stayed after the class to continue practicing and plan to return to the pool in the near future. SSC Masters swimmer Jennifer Kogure was on hand to take photographs.

After the clinic, SSC and Carey will be hosting the Kids Off-Road Triathlon on Sept. 1. The event will be held around the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool area in Marpi with the race starting at 7:30am. Registration begins at 7am and entrance fee is only $10.

According to SSC, the swim leg will be done lengthwise in the pool, while the bike and run portions will be on the hilly grounds surrounding the pool. Participants may use kickboards, not fins, in the swim leg, while helmets must we worn at all times during the bike race.

Next month's race is different from the one SSC had last month, as a participant, regardless of age, may chose the distance he wants to race. The choices are the following: short course (100-meter swim, 400m bike, and 500m run); medium course (300m swim, 400m bike, and 800m run); and long course (500m swim, 800m bike, and 1600m run).

Pool closed

Meanwhile, the Marpi pool will be closed for annual maintenance from Aug. 16 to 31. The public is invited to swim upon reopening at noon Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The fee is $5 and payable across the street at the go-cart track office. Swimmers are asked to present their receipt to the lifeguard.

An adult swimmer may also join Masters for $30 per month, payable to SSC by the first week of the month. The fee includes access to the pool during all the public hours and water polo on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. Workouts are provided on request. SSC would like to thank the Mariana Resort and Spa for its continued support to the swimming community. ***(SSC)***

CNMI

From Page 28

in the semis, 93. Ackerman and Rengiil eked out a 9-8 triumph over the Solomon Islands' Georgimah Row and American Samoa's Charity Sagiao in the other semis pairing.

The Commonwealth's second doubles crown came from the tandem of Isabel Heras and Carol Lee, who routed Fiji's Ruby Coffin and Vienna Kumar in the finals, 9-2. Heras and Lee made it to the title match after beating American Samoa's Blanchie Herrera and Michelle Miller, while Coffin and Kumar marched into the finals, following a victory over Samoa's Jeezabel Cristofari and Tonga's Skylawn Palelei.

Heras and Lee's win over Coffin and Kumar sort of avenged the former's loss to Coffin in the girls U12 singles finale. Lee finished at the No. 4 spot in the girls U12 singles after bowing to Heras in the semis.

In the boys U15 doubles finals, Chris Cajigan redeemed himself from a so-so performance in the singles division after teaming up with the Federated States of Micronesia's Terry Rush and winning over Kiribati's Tabera Bonteman and New Caledonia's Johan Sklenak, 9-5.

Cajigan, who missed the boys U15 singles semis and dropped to the No. 6 spot, and Rush clinched a finals berth in the doubles after eliminating the Cook Islands' Jake Bergman and Samoa's Christopher Shan, 9-2. Bonteman and Sklenak took the other finals ticket after ousting the Solomon Islands' Junior Benjamin and Fiji's Krishan Raju, 9-7.

In the U18 division, Thea Minor also bounced back from a slow start in the POJC after making it to the finals of the girls U18 doubles with teammate Annie Shannon of Fiji. Minor, who went 0-3 in the singles before saving a fifth place finish, and Shannon barged into the doubles finals after prevailing over Vanuatu's Lorraine Bainimataku and Papua New Guinea's Lorish Puluspene in the semis, 9-2.

Fiji's Tarani Kamoe and PNG's Marcia Tere-Apisah won the other semis pairing against the Cook Islands' Lillian Maui and Samoa'sLoloma Ripley, 9-0, and went on to sweep Minor and Shannon in the finals, 6-1, 6-3.

In the boys U18 doubles, Rafael Jones partnered with fellow CNMI player Christian Miller and the duo finished at No. 4 after beating Guam's Christian Penafiel and Kiribati's Tito Tebatibunga.

Meanwhile, the Jeff Race-coached CNMI Team is still in Fiji with its U15 and U12 players competing in the Oceania Plate and the U18 bets participating in the 2012 Oceania Closed Junior Championships. Results of these tournaments will be reported before the week ends.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

New York	68	47	.591	–
Tampa Bay	63	52	.548	5
Baltimore	62	53	.539	6
Boston	57	59	.491	11½
Toronto	55	60	.478	13

Central Division

Chicago	62	52	.544	–
Detroit	61	55	.526	2
Cleveland	54	62	.466	9
Minnesota	50	65	.435	12½
Kansas City	49	65	.430	13

West Division

Texas	67	47	.588	–
Oakland	61	53	.535	6
Los Angeles	60	56	.517	8
Seattle	53	64	.453	15½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	72	44	.621	–
Atlanta	66	49	.574	5½
New York	55	60	.478	16½
Philadelphia	53	62	.461	18½
Miami	52	64	.448	20

Central Division

Cincinnati	69	46	.600	–
Pittsburgh	64	51	.557	5
St. Louis	62	53	.539	7
Milwaukee	52	62	.456	16½
Chicago	45	69	.395	23½
Houston	38	79	.325	32

West Division

Los Angeles	63	53	.543	–
San Francisco	63	53	.543	–
Arizona	58	57	.504	4½
San Diego	52	65	.444	11½
Colorado	42	71	.372	19½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

DLX LEAGUE STANDINGS

Pool A

San Antonio	2	0
Highway Express	1	0
Playboy	1	0
MBI	1	0
KFC/Taco Bell	1	1
Blue Haus	1	1
Zhailas	0	0
Mawati	0	2
Hip Hop	0	3

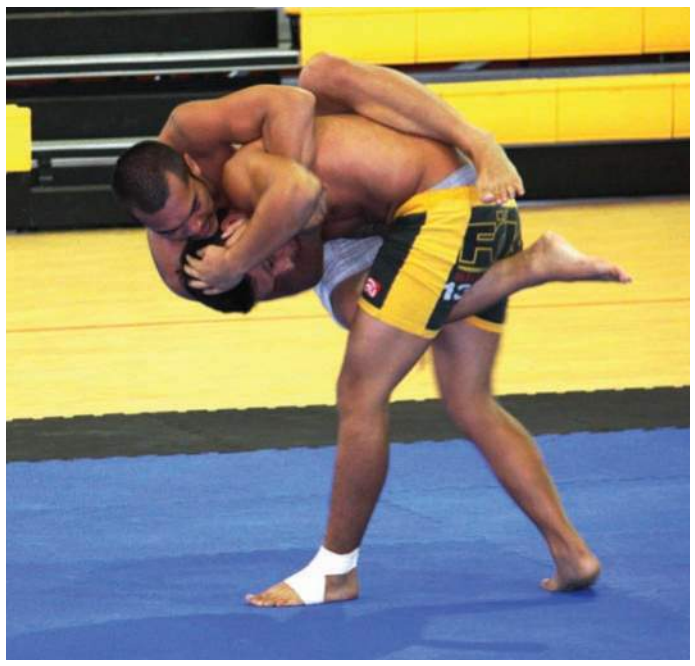
Pool B

LD Prime	2	0
Looban	2	0
Anjie's Boys	2	1
360 Church	1	1
San Roque	1	1
Freestyl	0	0
Docomo	0	1
Gualo Rai	0	2
QQ Rent A Car	0	2

Trench Tech Art of War 7

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

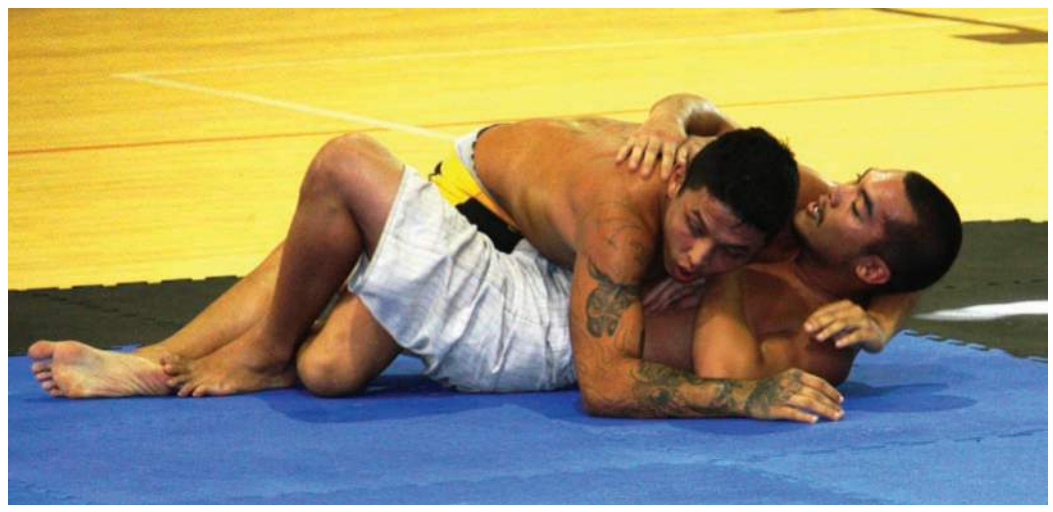
Mark Nuique, top, tries to pry apart Josh Duenas's arms in their bantamweight bout in the Art Of War 7: No-Gi Grappling & Submission Challenge held last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Alverick Alvarez pounces Roman Alvarez for a takedown attempt in their featherweight matchup.

Robert Alvarez gets taken for a ride by Derrick Rangamar in their featherweight match.

Fasi Jesse, right, locks in a leg submission on Donivan Mendiola in their lightweight meeting.



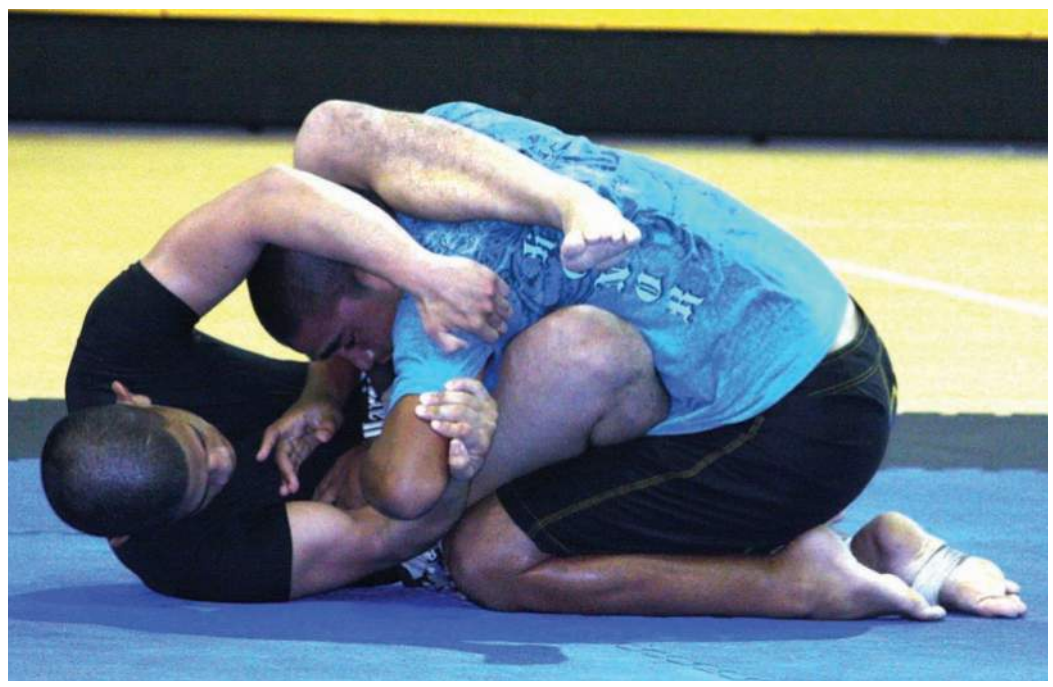
Roman Alvarez, left, gets side control on Alverick Alvarez in their featherweight contest.

Kimo Lizama, top, challenges Donivan Mendiola for the welterweight bronze.

John Aguon, top, takes on Eric Gatemen for the middleweight bronze.

Rob Palacios, left, shoots for a takedown against Roman Alvarez in their lightweight pairing.

Kelvin Fitial, top, presses his forearm to chin check Mylo Lassiter in the heavyweight gold medal duel.



Scotty Eclavea, left, goes for a rubber band guard against Shane Alvarez in their showdown for the featherweight gold medal.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI players clinch 3 doubles titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Tennis Team claimed three more crowns in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships after topping the doubles competitions in Fiji last week.

Girls U15 singles finalists Mikayla Lopez and Negahr Rastguiy teamed up in the doubles event and defeated fellow CNMI player Tammy Ackerman and Palau's Ayana Rengiil last Friday, 9-4, to clinch the championship. Lopez, who gave the CNMI its first championship in Fiji after winning the U15 singles title against Rastguiy, advanced to the finals after downing Fiji's Mulan Kamoe and the Solomon Islands' Vinda Teally

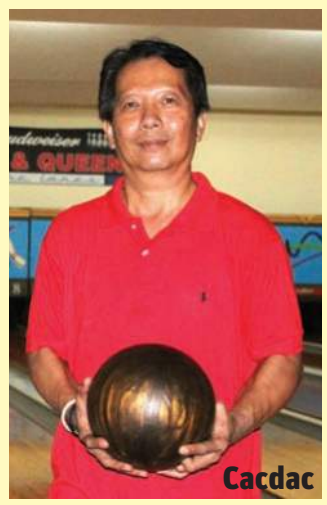
See CNMI on Page 26

Chris Cajigan, seen here going for a return in a tournament at the Pacific Islands Club early this year, teamed up with Terry Rush in winning the boys U15 doubles crown in the 2012 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Cacdac, Teodoro win in PBA Classified tourney

Teodoro


Cacdac

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Efren Cacdac and JR Teodoro played steady in the two-weekend competition in the Philippine Bowling Association Classified Tournament 2012 to top their respective divisions.

Cacdac prevailed in Class B, while Teodoro won Class C of the annual tournament held on Aug. 5 and 12 at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

A 144-136 victory in Game 1 of the finals against Kim Jae Yong gave Cacdac the Class B crown, which the latter missed last year. Melvin Malvar ruled the 2011 edition of the Class B contest, while Cacdac failed to advance to the step-ladder finals.

This year, Cacdac was the first bowler to land a spot in the step-ladder finals and earned a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round, while Jon Eparwa, Kim, and Ferdie Generoso joined him to

See CACDAC on Page 26

MBI hands Hip Hop Thunder third loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. sent the Hip Hop Thunder deep down the team standings in Pool A of the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League, following a 77-65 victory in last Monday's second game at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The loss was third in as many games for the Hip Hop Thunder, which is at the last spot of the nine-team Pool A. MBI, which led Playboy in their rain-suspended match two weeks ago, 14-4, gained its first win for a tie for second place with Highway Express and Playboy.

MBI drew at least 12 points apiece from four players and that had been the difference in the game, as the Hip Hop Thunder had only brothers Nate and Dan Mateo scoring in double figures in the loss with 20 and 10, respectively. Leo Galarse top-scored for MBI with his 19 markers, Noel David added 16, Dexter Tenorio

Bernard Samson, seen here going for a layup during the first edition of the DLX B league, plays for MBI, which beat the Hip Hop Thunder in last Monday's game, 77-65, at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

chipped in 13, and Art Trajano contributed 12. The rest of MBI players totaled 12 markers. The Hip Hop Thunder players got a combined 23 markers from three other players and the rest had only 8 points.

The Mateo twins started things out for the Hip Hop Thunder, teaming up for 15 points in the opening quarter, which ended with MBI behind, 17-21.

MBI then found its rhythm in the second period with Art Trajano leading the recovery after scoring 7 points. Four other MBI players lit up the scoreboard in the second canto to grab the lead at the break, 35-34.

Noel David, who was held to one field goal in the first half, had his best game in the third canto, firing 9 markers to up MBI's lead to six, 58-52. Leo Galarse then picked up where David left off, drilling 10 straight markers at one point in the fourth quarter to hand MBI the 12-point win.

The Hip Hop Thunder failed to mount its own comeback bid in

See MBI on Page 26

Mieko completes clinic, sets Kids Tri next

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan pro Mieko Carey leads the adult swim clinic held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last Saturday.

Saipan Swim Club coach and pro triathlete Mieko Carey completed an adult swim clinic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week and has scheduled a kids triathlon next.

In an SSC press release, the club said the class was full with 8 participants. They were given excellent instruction and tips and learned how to improve their freestyle. The hour-long session included all the basics of swimming, like body position, arm stroke, kicking, and breathing. Various drills and exercises were also done.

"I consider myself a swimmer but it's probably been over 30 years since I have had a lesson or input on my stroke. Mieko was fantastic. Starting with the warm-ups and basics, she led us through this very short lesson," said SSC Masters swimmer Jill Derickson.

"She made things simple to understand and was very entertaining. She shared her enthusiasm for swimming, and no doubt, more people, both be-

See MIEKO on Page 26